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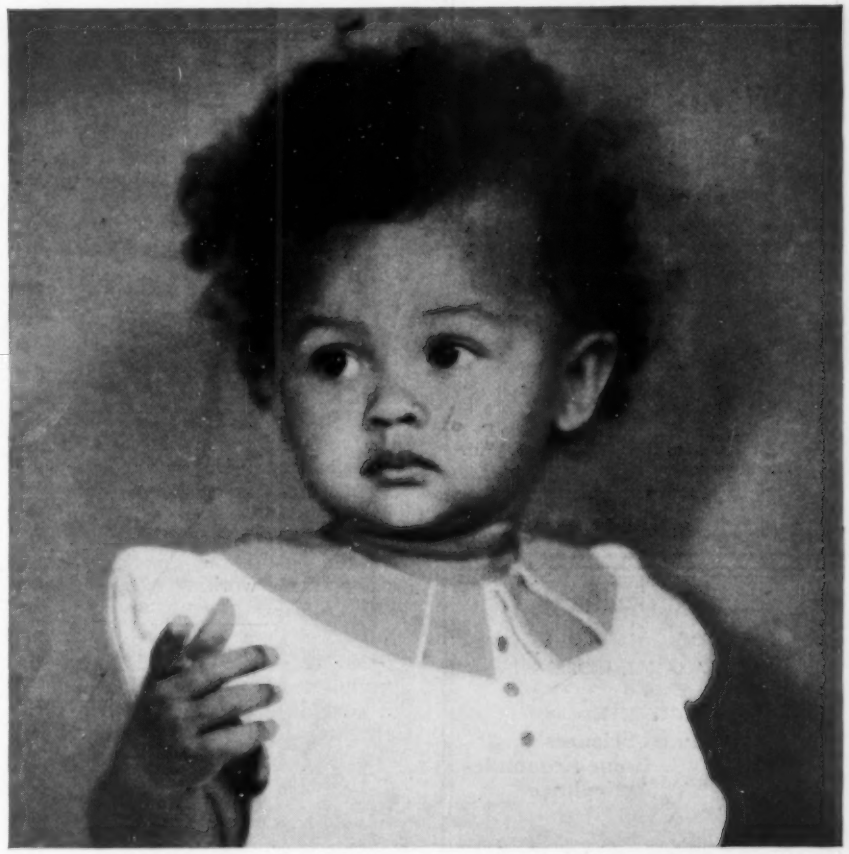

COLORED children are conceded to be among the most beautiful in the world by unbiased observers. Here in the United States, where most colored children are of African, Caucasian and Amerindian descent in varying degree, they present a veritable flower garden of beauty, a preview of the human race of the future.

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Each month's issue (June, July and August) will contain photographs of the most beautiful child so far selected and the five next most beautiful, for which $1.00 each will be paid.

Then, in our September, 1940 issue will appear the grand prize winner, and the second, third, fourth, fifth and sixth choices selected from ALL photographs submitted before the deadline, August 1, 1940. These prizes will be: $25 for the grand prize, $10 for second choice, $5 for third choice, $3 for fourth choice, $2 for fifth choice and $1 for sixth choice.

Photographs will NOT be returned unless accompanied by return postage and self-addressed container. Photographs postmarked *after midnight, August 1*, will not be considered.

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College and School News

Dr. Ralph Eugene Diffendorfer, corresponding secretary of the Board of Missions of the Methodist Church delivered a series of four lectures February 13–16 in the Seminary Chapel of **Gammon Theological Seminary.**

Mrs. Dan B. Brummitt of Evanston, Ill., gave a series of lectures on Women's Work in the Church, March 12–15.

Morgan College has now become **Morgan State College,** marking the beginning of full tax-supported higher education for Negroes in Maryland. This is evidently a move to forestall further attempts of Negroes to enter the tax-supported University of Maryland. It will obviously be some time, however, before the Negro institution ranks with the white institution, especially as regards graduate work.

"Let My People Come" is the attractively printed report of the sixth year of the administration of President Buell Gallagher of **Talladega College.**

Talladega's new librarian is Mrs. Eliza Atkins Gleason, daughter of the former president of Winston-Salem Teachers College. She is an A.B. from Fisk University and an M.A. from the University of California in library science.

Miss Marion Pharrow, an **Atlanta University School of Social Work** graduate, has been appointed to the staff of the Childrens Protective Association, Washington, D. C. She is an Atlanta U. graduate and was formerly a case worker with the Child Welfare Association of Fulton and DeKalb counties, Atlanta, Ga., and the Fulton County Department of Public Welfare.

The School has introduced the unique idea of placing students for field work practice all over the United States. Twenty-four students recently departed on these field assignments.

Dr. Arthur Howe, president of **Hampton Institute** has resigned his post effective June 30, 1940.

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The **Tougaloo College** News has changed its format and appearance. The first issue with dark yellow color contains interesting articles by faculty members. Co-Chairmen of the editorial board are Mrs. V. B. Hamilton and Mrs. E. W. Stallings.

St. Augustine's Messenger, a Catholic Negro magazine published by **St. Augustine's Seminary,** Bay St. Louis, Miss., also appears in new and more attractive form. St. Augustine's trains Negro Catholic youth for the priesthood.

On the honor roll at **Bennett College** were 33 girls at the end of the first semester, with fifteen receiving honorable mention. Bennett's fifth annual Home Coming was observed February 23–25 with Dr. Channing H. Tobias of the Y.M.C.A. as guest. Dr. Warren M. Banner, director of research, National Urban League was also a featured speaker.

St. Augustine's College observed the seventy-second anniversary of its opening January 13, with a dinner attended by students and faculty. Featured speaker was Mrs. Ophelia T. Griffin, '91.

Dr. Leslie Pinckney Hill, president of **Cheyney State Teachers College** spoke at the University of Chicago chapel on Sunday, February 11. His address on "The Educated Man in Race Relations" was broadcast over Station WGN.

Prof. Harry W. Greene, head of the Department of Education, **West Virginia State College** has been made a member of the state-wide committee in the drive launched by the State Department of Education for the retirement of teachers and workers in the state colleges of West Virginia.

George S. Schuyler, Business Manager of THE CRISIS addressed the students on February 13, on "The Negro Job Future." He later spoke to numerous classes in social and economic science.

Morehouse College celebrated its 73rd anniversary on February 18, with exercises in Sale Hall Chapel. Rev. Samuel Augustus Owen was the principal speaker. He is pastor of Metropolitan Baptist Church, Memphis, Tenn.

The Fifth Annual Memorial Service in honor of Dr. John Hope was held on February 22. The principal speaker was Charles F. Anderson of Birmingham, Ala.

Samuel P. Gilman, lawyer, 120 Broadway, New York City, has been added to the Board of Trustees of **Lin-**

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coln University (Pa.), its president, Dr. Walter Livingston Wright, has announced.

Two modern dormitories and a streamlined library building were formally dedicated at **Arkansas State College** on February 18. The principal speaker was Isaac Fisher, former president. The three buildings were made possible by a PWA grant-loan. Dr. John B. Watson is president.

The **Prairie View State College** "Standard" devoted its February number to the Agricultural Extension Service. The number is profusely illustrated and meaty with information about the fine work being done with Negro farmers throughout the Lone Star State.

Four hundred eight students registered for the second semester of the current school year at **Shaw University.**

The University Honor Roll for the first semester numbered 39 students, with freshmen represented by fourteen or 39.9%. Individual honors went to Miss Martha J. Brett of Winton and Miss Grace O. Smith of Scotland Neck, both of whom gained "A" grade in all subjects pursued.

Enrollment for the year is 170 at **Storer College,** a ten-year record. An annuity of $1,000 has come to the college from Miss Alfrieda M. Mosher of Boston, Mass.

The **Howard University** School of Law has been given 309 law books from the library of the late Nathaniel T. Goldsberry, a graduate of the school.

Dr. Charles H. Houston, former Vice-Dean of the Law School, returns to its faculty to teach a course in Civil Rights during the second semester of the present year. This course is an innovation. Dr. Houston has had wide experience as chief counsel for the N.A.A.C.P. in the Gaines, Bluford and other famous cases.

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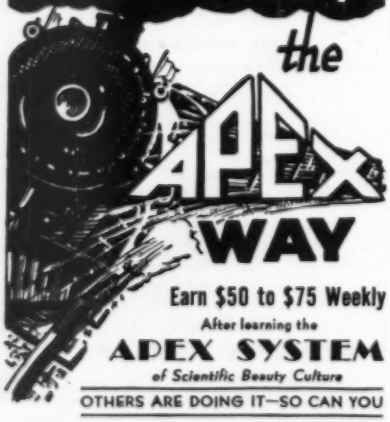
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Volume 47, No. 4 *Whole No. 352*

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THE CRISIS *was founded in* 1910. *It is published monthly at 69 Fifth Avenue, New York, N. Y., by Crisis Publishing Company, Inc., and is the official organ of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. The subscription price is* $1.50 *a year or* 15c *a copy. Foreign subscriptions* $1.75. *The date of expiration of each subscription is printed on the wrapper. When the subscription is due a blue renewal blank is enclosed. The address of a subscriber may be changed as often as desired, but both the old and new address must be given and two weeks' notice is necessary. Manuscripts and drawings relating to colored people are desired. They must be accompanied by return postage, and while* THE CRISIS *uses every care it assumes no responsibility for their safety in transit. Entered as second class matter November 2, 1910, at the post office at New York, N. Y., under the act of March 3, 1879, and additional second class entry at Albany, N. Y.*

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THE COVER

Hattie McDaniels, who played the part of "Mammy" in the film "Gone With the Wind", was awarded the coveted "Oscar," a statuette given by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences for the best work during 1939 of an actress in a supporting role. Miss McDaniels' portrayal of "Mammy" earned the unanimous acclaim of motion picture critics throughout the country. The award to her marks the first time a colored film actor or actress has ever been given this honor. In fact, it is the first time a colored actor has even been considered. Miss McDaniels has a long career of success in Hollywood in bit parts.

NEXT MONTH

The article by J. A. Rogers entitled "The Suppression of Negro History", which was promised for the April issue, will appear in May.

There will be, also, an article on the government's low cost housing program by Dr. Robert C. Weaver.

Also a story, "Sunday," by Lucille Boehm.

In an early issue THE CRISIS will present articles on Vice President John Nance Garner and Congressman Martin Dies, both of Texas.

OUR CONTRIBUTORS

Constance E. H. Daniel is attached to the information bureau of the Farm Security Administration.

•

Louis Lautier is the well-known Washington correspondent for several of the leading Negro weeklies.

•

J. W. Haywood, Jr., has written several articles and stories for THE CRISIS. He lives in Baltimore.

•

G. P. LaBarre, Jr., is a graduate of the University of Mississippi and is a graduate student at present in the University of the South at Sewanee, Tennessee.

•

Mercer Cook is Professor of French at Atlanta university.

Security for Farmers

By Constance E. H. Daniel

IN the belief that little of permanent value can result from half-way programs, the Farm Security Administration has concerned itself with building a program designed to meet, as nearly as land resources will permit, the needs of the million farm families who were on relief in 1933, and of 2,000,000 others whose insecurity, even today, places their independence in peril.

We are constantly being told that there is nothing new about the problems of sharecroppers and other low-income farm groups beyond the current emphasis on them coupled with the newly-acquired articulateness of a folk traditionally unexpressive.

Yet this is by no means all the truth, for the poor farmers of three generations past had still some place to go in his extremity—there was still unexploited land for those with the hardihood to seek it, and the great industrial centers of today, then scarcely more than in the making, welcomed new blood from the hinterlands.

The problem of conserving the soil for the future while making a thrifty living for the present was there, as it had always been since the first sod was broken for the first farm, but there was no pressure of ill-fed farm millions, of cattle starving in dust bowls, or of stricken families driven to the road by a mechanizing agriculture to force attention to it.

As national isolation ended with the advent of fast oil-burning or electrically driven ships, of submarines with phenomenal cruising ranges, and clipper planes following trans-oceanic air lanes, so agricultural isolation ceased when developing urban industries invaded the farm home, displacing the products of the loom and the fireside bench with those of power machines.

Each new invasion—of clothing, of furnishings, of machinery—deprived the farm of some measure of its original independence—forced upon it more reliance upon cash with which to buy city-made products. Providing cash meant producing cash crops, many of them sold in international markets, cash crops that must be made even if it meant buying food that might better have been raised at home, or forcing crops from worn-out land unfit for cultivation.

America's lands were vast, and disaster was not immediate, so for long years its approach escaped serious attention, save for an occasional voice crying in the wilderness—Seaman Knapp, who founded the United States Extension Service a quarter of a century ago, Theodore Roosevelt with his pleas for conservation of national resources, and the country life associations bent on preventing human waste. Even before these, in the early days of the Republic, the landed gentry made sporadic efforts to direct the thought of their day to the problem. That they failed was probably no fault of theirs. It is hard to convince a man in the midst of plenty that his grandchildren may starve.

A three way program of resettlement on new land, loans for a fresh start, and education in small-scale diversified farming is being carried out among white and colored farmers in the South by the Farm Security Administration

Negroes Were Pioneers, Also

More than is generally realized, Negroes as individuals have shared in everything that has happened to America's land, going out in covered wagons with other westward-bound pioneers, sharing the hardships and reaping the rewards that went to all exploiters of new territory. But Negroes as a group were both backbone and incentive for the profligate agriculture of the South —of a cash-crop economy that built fortunes for a few, but squeezed dry both poor whites and Negroes, casting them aside when the wasted acres could no longer provide them—or the few—with a living.

How Negro slavery with its alluring prospect of apparently limitless labor for cash-crop production laid the foundations for the system of colossal waste that was the cotton economy is an old story. Less commonplace is that of the wreckage left behind by the collapse both of slavery and of the false economy it supported.

Cash-cropping on a grand scale called for labor and yet more labor, so overlarge families were encouraged—almost demanded—first from the slaves, next, with the development of sharecropping, from freedmen and poor whites. Down to today the prospective cropper estimates his worth to the land-owner in terms of so many "head of chillun" he can put in the field.

Problem in Southeast

Result: in the Southeast, for instance, we find the greatest density of rural population in the country—70 percent of the total population is in rural areas against 47 percent for the nation as a whole; and we find this population encouraged by a wasteful system, crowded on fewer and fewer cultivable acres, as the results of the same wasteful system take thousands of acres annually out of cultivation.

The Negro population in this area shows a net increase of 75,000 a year—the rate of natural increase being only two-thirds that of whites in rural districts because of the high death rate. This population, then, is thrown in direct competition for a livelihood with a white population with a net increase of 180,000 a year.

This is the area which contains over 60 percent of the country's eroded land —97,000,000 acres badly damaged and 30,000,000 more completely ruined; the area from which rivers are washing 20 million tons of potash, nitrogen and phosphorous to the sea, each year.

In Alabama and Georgia, where 56,500 farm families are fighting for existence on land too poor to produce a living, and 47,500 are located on farms too small to produce a living—there are potential land resources for only 25,000 new, family-size farms and little of this land is actually available.

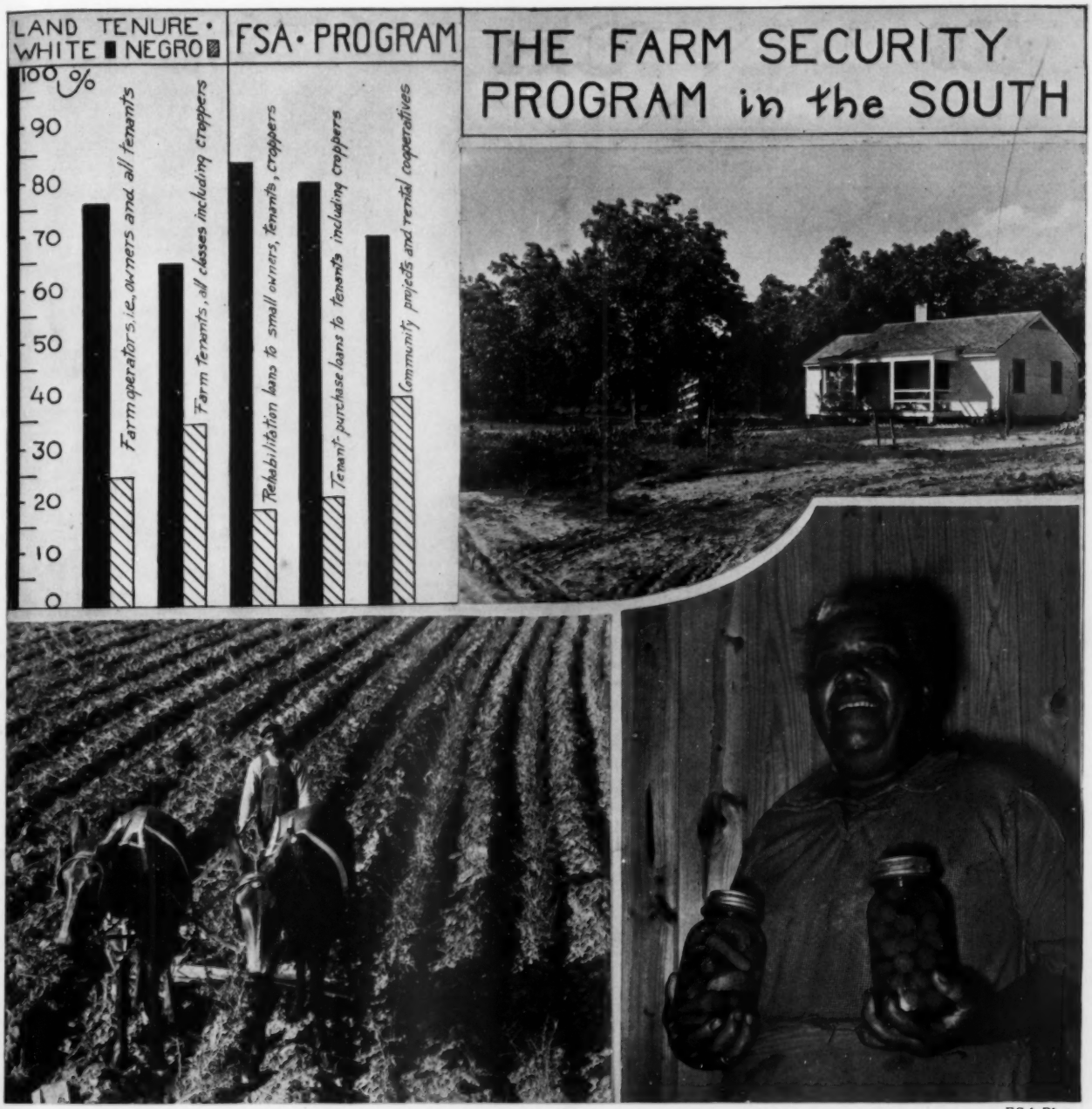
With this picture in mind, the serious comment made recently by an educated, intelligent adult, that we ought to throw open "all those millions of idle acres of ours" to European refugees, is significant as an indication of what the average American, white or black, does not know about his country's land, about the problems that face the farmers who produce his food—about the problems that face local and national governments, particularly in the South, in their attempts to find a way out for these millions of farm people.

What is the status of these people who form the backwash of an outmoded system, and what are the hard facts of daily existence which face them?

719,748 Farm Operators

In terms of Negroes, 719,748 are operating farmers in the Southeast. Anyone who actually works a farm is an operating farmer. Slightly over one-fifth

FSA Program Aids 50,000 Negro Farm Families



FSA Photo

EDITOR'S NOTE: The Farm Security Administration's program for low-income farmers is not, of course, limited to the South. But its effect upon the Negro in agriculture is largely identifiable with its effect upon southern agriculture, since between 95 and 97 per cent of all Negro farmers operate in the sixteen southern states—that number including the border states of Maryland and Missouri.

While it lays no claim to perfection, the FSA program is making itself felt not only by the hundreds of thousands of farm families participating in it, but by other thousands who are learning by example that better farm and home management, plus better health, equals better people.

The graph above shows the Negro farmer as operater of approximately one-fourth (24 per cent) of the South's farms, and as 34.5 per cent of its tenant population.

The FSA basic program—that of rehabilitation—has reached approximately 50,000 Negro farm families in the South. Its limited tenant-purchase program has helped nearly a thousand Negro tenant-farmers (20 per cent of all farmers so helped in the South) to ownership; while more than two thousand others, former tenants and day-laborers, are sharing community life while farming on FSA community "projects" or rental cooperatives—some as owners, others as renters. Thirty per cent of all "project" occupancy in the South, and forty-seven per cent of all occupancy on rental cooperatives, are Negro—an average of 38.5 per cent. Rental cooperatives are located largely in the high-tenancy area of the Mississippi Delta.

of these farm operators — 154,866 — are small owners; nearly half a million —464,588—are tenants; and of these tenants, 352,830—half of all Negro farm operators in these eleven states—are sharecroppers.*

As the raising of cash crops—cotton and tobacco—increased, production of food decreased and certainty of cash income with it, for these crops are heavily dependent on a sharply fluctuating international market, affected by wars and rumors of wars, reflecting the insecurity of other peoples. So tenant families spend half of their cash income for food with the furnish-merchant at the crossroads store or the county seat.

Compared with the rest of the country the Southeast runs short, each year, of 121 million gallons of milk and 70 million dozen eggs. Deaths from pellagra, a diet deficiency disease, are nine times the average for the country. From 50 to 90 percent of the children in large areas of the Southeast have insufficient diets. These people need food—fresh food. Farm Security believes that they can produce it if given a chance.

These same Southeast folk are paying three-fifths of the country's fertilizer bills out of only one-fifth of its agricultural earnings. Because of depleted soil, working farmers in this area are forced to spend proportionately more money for fertilizer than do farmers anywhere else in the country—hence they have less than any others with which to employ casual farm labor.

Mechanization

The problems of the Southeast, modified and with sectional variations, are the problems of other southern farmers. As farming stretches westward the size of the farms increases and the emphasis in the farmers' troubles shifts from poor land, or too little of it, to mechanization. Still largely a threat in the East, due to smaller farm incomes and less favorable topography, in the Southwest mechanization appears as a problem of rapidly increasing proportions—a riddle for which there is as yet no immediate solution. Tenancy, in the few places where it is decreasing, is taking the final plunge downward, disintegrating into day labor and migrancy. Nor can the answer be found in urban industries still unable to re-absorb their own unemployed labor, plus the untouched supply provided by urban youth trained for non-existent jobs.

For the present, at least, the way out of the farmer's problems must center around the farm, and to be of any lasting value it must at least provide adequate food and shelter, whole clothes, and the chance for unembarrassed association with other farm folk. It must also include some hope for the future by conserving arable land and consistently working to reclaim as much as possible of the damaged acreage. And this, in brief, is precisely the program of the Farm Security Administration.

Once the pleasing myth that "no one can starve on a farm" was dispelled by the knowledge that the word "acres" was not necessarily synonymous with "food," there immediately arose the necessity for thinking in terms of the facts. Fact one was that the ratio of farmers to productive crop-land acreage was badly out of balance.

Relief farmers, and those on the ragged edge between want and relief, had passed the point where they could obtain credit. Credit advanced from public or private sources to farmers on non-productive or sub-marginal lands would be money thrown to the four winds. Yet, assuming—as Farm Security did assume—that these farm folk valued their independence as much as anyone else and were willing to work to preserve it if given a chance, initial credit was a "must" if the situation was to be met squarely.

The common denominator for these facts was to make loans to farmers on producing land, and where they were not on producing land, to help them to find it before making the loan—thus did the much-abused term "resettlement" come into being.

Loans Plus Education

Good soil once found, there was an obligation to keep it productive, both as insurance for the loan and as insurance for the family's future and the country's future. Farmers, black or white, who had been thinking for generations along the furrow of cash-cropping could not be expected to change this thinking overnight and without aid. This involved the establishment of a teaching program, and, in turn, of determining what direction that teaching should take.

For years the United States Extension Service had been trying to meet a progressively bad market situation by instituting live-at-home programs. For half a century Tuskegee Institute had been exhorting the South to feed itself. And this self-maintenance was the direction determined upon for FSA instruction. Farm Security's program emerged, then, as one of a self-contained farm management backed up by credit and accompanied by expert guidance—the whole leading to greater self-sufficiency of individual farms and of neighborhoods.

The floor of the greater FSA program is the rehabilitation program, which has, since its inception, reached approximately half a million of the South's needy farm families. Most of the 50,000 Negro farm families who were, and are, a part of this number are in the South, although such loans have been made to Negros in every state in the Union except eight in the extreme North.

These families, through farm and home management supervisors, are learning that an adequate, well-planned garden and a cow and poultry in the barnyard mean better health and cash in their pockets—the cash formerly spent in buying food produced and processed by someone else. They are learning how to correlate crop production with market demand, and that safety lies in diversification. Terracing and contour plowing have taken on a dollar-and-cents meaning, and children are beginning to know that there is a definite connection between stopping gullies and having clothes to wear to school.

Rehabilitation loans are not large, usually only a few hundred dollars—just enough to repair a roof, provide work stock or simple farm implements where these are lacking, and allow something for food until a first crop is made. Always this amount is budgeted with the assistance of FSA supervisors according to carefully made farm and home plans. Successive loans are frequently made and paid out, year by year, until a family is completely rehabilitated and is able to go ahead independently once more. In the southern states alone there are over 50,000 such "graduate" families, who have fully repaid all loans and reached a satisfactory standard of living, and without further aid or supervision are carrying on the practices they learned "on the program." For the country as a whole this number increases to nearly 115,000.

Tenant-purchase loans, which may be considered the second part of the Farm Security Administration's loan program, make larger advances at still lower rates available to a limited number of tenants who show ownership ability, and are willing to cooperate in carrying out the same self-maintaining, land-conserving program that is followed by rehabilitation borrowers. The larger, long-term tenant-purchase loans are made for the purchase of farms, with the same requirement of land productivity, and with the intent of stimulating ownership. The payments approximate the amounts usually paid for rent. Approximately a thousand Negro ten-

(*Continued on page* 114)

* The figures in the graph are for the South as a whole. The Southeastern states as here mentioned include only Virginia, the Carolinas, Kentucky, Tennessee, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, and the Three Delta States —Missouri, Arkansas, and Louisiana, where the farm economy is comparable.

Jim Crow in the Nation's Capital

By Louis Lautier

In Washington, the seat of the government of the world's greatest so-called democracy, a strict policy of limiting or denying the civil rights of colored Americans is maintained

TEN years after the Civil War Congress enacted the Civil Rights Act, President Ulysses S. Grant, who, while a general in the Union army, had forced the surrender of Robert E. Lee, commander-in-chief of the Confederate armies, at Appomattox, Virginia, on April 9, 1865, approved the measure on March 1, 1875.

The Civil Rights Act was passed with the benevolent purpose of alleviating the condition of the former slaves, who had been elevated to national citizenship by the Civil Rights Act of April 9, 1866, which declared to be citizens of the United States "all persons born in the United States and not subject to any foreign power, excluding Indians not taxed."

In its application to the states, the supreme court held the Civil Rights Act of March 1, 1875, unconstitutional and void on October 15, 1883. But it remained valid and effective in all other places within the jurisdiction of the United States, including the District of Columbia, until June 16, 1913, when the supreme court held that its provisions were not separable as to their operation in such places as were under the exclusive jurisdiction of the federal government and the statute was therefore unconstitutional in its entirety.

Since the nullification of the Civil Rights Act, colored persons in the District of Columbia have had their fundamental rights as American citizens curtailed to such an extent that today segregation and discrimination on account of race or color are decreed as the public policy of the nation's capital.

This denial of civil rights to colored persons is of three kinds—public, quasi-public, and private. Public denial may be defined as that countenanced by the heads of various executive departments and independent offices and establishments of the federal government and by the heads of the District of Columbia government. Quasi-public denial may be defined as that effected by concessionaires in the use of public facilities. Private denial may be found in the exclusion of colored persons from places of public accommodation and amusement operated by corporations and individuals.

The House Restaurant

An example of public race discrimination may be found in the refusal of service to colored persons in the House restaurant. Since January 23, 1934, only white persons have been served in that section set apart for the public. But in order to make it appear that there is no race discrimination involved, that section formerly designated "Public" is now designated "For Members Only." The House restaurant is under the control of the Committee on Accounts. Representative Lindsay C. Warren, of North Carolina, is the chairman of that committee.

The National Capital Parks, a unit of the Interior Department, administers the federal park system and recreational areas in the District of Columbia. In the direct operation of them, the superintendent of the National Capital Parks will grant permits to colored persons for the use of only certain baseball diamonds, golf courses, tennis courts, picnic areas, and other facilities.

Under concessions from the National Capital Parks, the Welfare and Recreational Association of Public Buildings and Grounds operates nearly all swimming pools, tennis courts, and golf courses in public parks in the District of Columbia. For the use of these facilities fees are charged. Restaurants and cafeterias in public buildings are also operated by this association.

The Welfare and Recreational Association is a semi-public, non-profit-making organization incorporated under the laws of the District of Columbia. In the operation of its concessions it follows the local pattern. Only in cafeterias in certain public buildings is there no discrimination. In the majority of the cafeterias colored persons are segregated. They may swim only in certain pools. They may play only on certain golf courses and tennis courses.

A law library is maintained in the United States district court building by the Bar Association of the District of Columbia. Only members may use it. The constitution of the bar association prohibits Negroes from being members.

The District of Columbia maintains

(*Continued on page* 125)

Acme

Air view of the Lincoln Memorial from the steps of which Marian Anderson on Easter Sunday, 1939, sang to an audience of 75,000 persons in a dramatic protest against the barring of herself and her people from Constitution Hall, owned by the Daughters of the American Revolution

Sequel to a Swing Session

By J. W. Haywood, Jr.

THE lynchers of Bullneck Samuel Sampson would have rubbed out their eyes in disbelief if they could have seen him laboriously pulling himself up on the very rope that was to have killed him. It had been hard—hard and hot as death—to hang there poking out his neck muscles, sticking out his tongue, bulging wide his eyes, pretending to be dying so that they would leave him before his chafing throat collapsed in a clotted mass.

How devilishly deliberately, how carefully cruelly they had executed the whole thing. They had not beaten him nor tortured him in any way. Not even the gracious kindness of an all-ending blaze had been extended to shorten Bullneck's suffering. The scheming mob leaders had decreed that the "nigger acrobat," whose local prestige in athletic feats they deeply envied, should be allowed to "trick himself to death."

"He's always been a-showin' off wif ropes and bars and untyin' chains and knots and sech things, let's put a noose 'round his thick black neck and see him untie *that*."

The hideous idea appealed to the moiling multitude. The stronger the sufferer, the longer their sport. So binding one hand behind, they set him dangling and clutching and stretching out vainly frantic toes for earth from a grass rope's end. No wonder they jeered so heartily and screeched in moronic mirth. It *is* funny to see a human suspended by his neck, spinning, jerking, gasping, trying to surround just one small bit of life-giving air with closing lungs—very funny, if he is black and helpless!

When the Negro's pitiable kicking had ceased and the self-designated head of the primitive pack felt that life had yielded to the rope, the mob homeward dispersed, leaving a mutely eloquent object dimly, darkly, gently moving with tardy breezes across the face of a solemn setting sun. Bullneck listened keenly to make certain no one dallied behind. Then expertly loosing his fastened hand, he hauled himself wearily up the long rope. Face and neck muscles were rigidly sore from the terrific trial. Swallowing was a recurrent torment. Head and body seemed to have been pried apart. His eyes were out of focus, while the chest cavity had almost lost the power of full expansion, for Bullneck had had to pretend to stop breathing.

But the resurrected man kept dragging himself toward the nearby wooded hills that for him had been home and refuge since his parents came to Leetown, Virginia, twenty-seven years ago. Quick wit told him not to go home till nightfall. Therefore, far back into the forest he went to a cavern known only to himself. Stretched out there upon the cool, healing floor of earth, his body revived, his nimble mind revolved in vengeful vein.

His plan thoroughly formed, the survivor of the sordid swing session pulled himself as erect as he could and began to choose his way home; for it had become safely dark.

When her husband, Bullneck Samuel, lurched into the oil-lamp lighted cottage, Lila Sampson's scalp tingled and her veins rose as if a mummy had said, "Hello" to her.

Samuel had to bid her three times to dim the light.

"Lawdy, Sammy, is it really you, baby darlin'?" She was holding him, hugging savagely. "Ah was so 'feared dey'd kill you. What did dey do to yo'? Tell me. What did dem nasty white scum try to . . . ?"

Samuel flopped into a chair. His throaty speech rattled in bruised tissues: "Dey tried to kill me, to lynch me; thought dey had finished me and left me for daid on a rope, but Ah tricks um. . . ."

She could hardly distinguish his hoarse phrases.

"Is yo' hongry?" But she knew the answer and gathered odd bits of food —to the blurbing accompaniment of the coffee pot.

"How'd yo' trick um, honey?" she inquired, tenderly massaging his neck muscles.

When hot food and drink had medicated soul and belly, he told all. Lila sobbed in scarlet sadness. Her sorrow was bitter, too, because she knew that they were held in a social clamp that tore them whenever they attempted to strike back. But the weak can always weep.

Samuel straightened up, raising Lila's face.

"Lis'en, honey babe, I don made up my min' to two things. First, you's gonna leave dis place tomorrer. You got th' money hid in yo' box. Next, I'm gonna git dat pale-faced peck wot led de mob again me—Jed Gunn!"

Lila shrieked: "Dey'll kill yo' sho dis time, Sammy, dey will kill. . . ."

Samuel didn't hear. He was like an idiot seeing visions.

"Den I'm gonna git—her, HER! Damn her soul. She caused it all wid her jealous, filthy lies." His voice was as soft as a serpent's hiss.

Lila understood. Bullneck's will was as strong as his neck. She knew, also, about HER. Faith Hopewell was her name and she was white. She lived with her father on the place adjoining Sampson's; had played with other poor white children and with Lila and Samuel in childhood. Adulthood had forced her to outward observance of the social code, but had not diminished her looseness with men in general and her liking for Sampson in particular. Always, there was something for Sampson to do on her place—ploughing, meat curing, what-not—only he could do it. Lila had begged her husband to sell out and move away before Faith got scared or tired and yelled: "Rape."

That was before he and Lila married. He saw his peril, but was so far in with the white woman that breaking off would be as dangerous as bearing on. Faith grew hungrier and hungrier for her special man. She turned her white face toward the world by day, but toward her dark man by many a happy night. Samuel's marriage rocked her, stung and stunned. She felt cheated, scorned, furious.

Samuel and Lila had just about completed arrangements to sell their land when Faith, retreating behind the Maginot Line of southern white femininity, demanded of white manhood a black man's life for her altar of violated purity. Of course, they did not question the woman; they never do. They sought the man.

"Where yo' goin' from here?" asked Lila.

Samuel had already begun to fill a bag. "Ah got me a hidin' place up yonder in de hills. Dey'd nebber find me; an' its got a back way out. Ah'm gonna take stuff for a week or so. Dey's plenty of grain in de fields, anyway, and plenty animals about, too. It won't take me long, 'cose Ah's *gotta* work fast and wid 'most care."

His bag was ready. Lila embraced him with the anxious comprehension of a primitive mate. Life had pounded into her the lesson of enduring misery.

"Remember: yo' ain't seed me at all. Don' let de sun set on yo' here another day. Go on up to my a'nt in Washing-

ton," he hurried; for he could see that she was tying back the tears, "an' don' be afraid for me, lil' 'oman, no man yet ain't been lynched twicet." With a detached chuckle at his own glum humor, he closed the door outside.

JED GUNN was a cheap son of a poor white family. Since his two motherless boys had run away to the city, leaving him behind, he himself had assumed the chore of driving his small herd of cows to and from their pastures. It was his lazy habit to guide them homeward in heavy twilight. They had to traverse a woody gulch that separated Jed's pasture from his farm land.

As Jed followed his ambling animals, it seemed that a particularly dense amber haze sprawled overhead. He found himself expecting something—like waiting between the lightning's flash and the thunder's clap.

A figure flashed like lightning from an overhanging tree limb, landed flatly across Jed's shoulders, robbing him of breath. Steely fingers shut off outcry and air.

Jed regained consciousness under vigorous shaking. A looming expanse of dark flesh resolved itself into the face of a man. Gad! Was it Bullneck Sampson? But he himself had seen the Negro a swinging carcass. Struggling, he in horror realized that he was bound and gagged and defenseless.

There was an inarticulate racket in the colored man's throat. He had lost the power of human speech but not of human-like sound.

"Doan yo' worry, white man, Ah's only gonna be your niggerman and tie yo' necktie," jumbled the black in splay-mouthed mockery.

He pulled a piece of rope across Jed's face, thrust it under his eyes, gestured that it had once bound his own neck.

Jed's eyes cracked with terror. Now a rope was roughly tautening about his parched Adam's apple; his feet were leaving the ground; leaves brushed his numbing face; a mammoth Roman candle of sooty red exploded between his ears in a shower of coiling smoke and dripping sparks . . . The candle failed.

To Bullneck's alert ears came the lonesome plaints of lowing cattle. He'd forgotten about them. Better get down and let them into the corral before someone hears and begins to wonder.

Off on a run he started. But wait a minute. Faith Hopewell's fields bordered Jed's. Her house was in sight of Jed's and she always had been a nosey female. Bullneck approached the farmyard of Jed Gunn cautiously. Concealing himself, he watched a peering lantern draw near. The voices, distantly indistinct, closely identified Faith and her father.

Louise Jefferson

A figure flashed like lightning from an overhanging tree limb, landed flatly across Jed's shoulders, robbing him of breath

"Jed, Jed, you Jed Gunn!" shouted the woman in *crescendo*.

"Sumpin's wrong heah, Faithie," father pondered in fright, "ain't even no light in the house."

Quick footsteps caused both father and daughter to turn toward the corral.

"Jed,"—their simultaneous cry died beneath a sickening, bony thud. Hopewell slumped to the earth. The light was kicked blank but not before Faith glimpsed the silhouette of familiar features.

"S—Sam—Samuel," came as if from punctured bellows. "What are *you* doin' here?"

The moonless dark of rural nights imparts to objects a most frightful sort of visibility. To Faith, Bullneck Samuel appeared bloodthirstily ogerish. Like an entrapped she-wolf she clawed and bit one of the black hands that fastened upon her. The avenger instinctively freed his hand.

In a fugitive whirl the terrified woman sought escape. She darted through the yielding gate—only to find that she had entered the private corral of old Jed's fiercest bull whose excitement had been pitched high by the unusual commotion and mooing of the cows outside. The bull's sight and legs were quicker than the woman's, however. Before Faith could reverse herself, it had impaled her on reeking horns. It drowned her dying screams with bellowing. It gored her to lifeless limpidity.

Bullneck had halted in horrified immobility. Self-preservation checked the primal urge to rescue. Let nature take her course, as had the filthy fungus of hate in his tongueless thoughts. But he'd better move out of this place.

With a hasty jog, he sped off, cupping his ear frequently for a welcome whistle. If he could just hop that late freight. . . . It never traveled very fast—and ran right into the big city. There he would wash out the bloody rag of life; then turn toward Washington and his " 'oman" Lila.

Thankful

By SOPHIE R. DORNBUSCH

'Tis well that I'm not an Anglo-Saxon
Handy as that on occasion might be—
I've had no part in the hideous art
Of imposing white supremacy.

New Rebels in the Old South

By G. P. LaBarre, Jr.

BY 1840 the South had definitely cast her lot with agrarianism. The Negro slave and Negro worker became the central institutions in a culture that has, for nearly a hundred years now, moulded the thinking of all the South, especially of the youth in her colleges.

As might be expected in the South, where the religious motivation of college founders was not so dominant as in New England, the colleges naturally expressed rather uniformly the political opinions of the section. The whole system of agrarianism and Negro labor led the leisure class of Southerners to assume an attitude of quiet peaceful superiority that was most obvious in the schools and colleges. Outside observers simply called southern colleges sleepy and perhaps overlooked the latent, veiled, scornful force for the *status quo* beneath the blasé, sophisticated exterior.

Of course, such men as George Tucker of the University of Virginia; Dr. Henry Ruffner of Washington college, a worthy predecessor of Lee; Francis Lieber of the College of South Carolina; and B. S. Hedrick of the University of North Carolina continued to raise their voices in southern colleges, to teach, talk, and agitate against slavery and Negro exploitation right up to the opening of the Civil war. Sometimes they aroused such fierce public resentment against themselves that the institutions sometimes saw fit to abridge the academic freedom of their professors. However, once the system was definitely established (1830–1840), such public institutions as schools swung into line. In the years immediately before the war public opinion regarding slavery was pretty much regimented.

It hardly needs repeating that the Civil war almost ruined the South financially "and the succeeding orgy of larceny euphemistically termed 'reconstruction'" completed the process. The development of institutions of higher learning, with their endowments wiped out and supported by a war-drained people, was severely retarded during the post-war period. Some few colleges, of course, passed into Negro hands and others under the control of carpetbaggers and scalawags. Naturally, while this group was in control of the College of South Carolina, the University of Alabama, and the University of North Carolina, these institutions were advocates of Negro rights and privileges.

Slowly, but steadily, small bands of liberal young men and women in the universities of the South are at work on the problems of racial adjustment, this writer declares

But controlled by the corrupt forces as they were, their scholastic standards dropped to rock bottom. The University of Mississippi and the University of Alabama, two truly outstanding universities of the pre-war period, were tragic examples of this drop.

As the southern whites slowly forced the period of reconstruction to an end, they naturally gained control of their colleges and universities again. They were, in some measure, on their feet again both politically and financially, by 1885. In matters of race relations, the inevitable reaction against corrupt Negro domination, to which they had been subjected, led the colleges to the rather conscious defence of "white superiority."

Hostility, then Indifference

In turn, this attitude wore off by the beginning of the twentieth century to be replaced by the attitude that still holds sway today—that of indifference. Such men as Major Millsaps, founder of Millsaps college; Chancellor Walter B. Hill of the University of Georgia; Professor Andrew Sledd of Emory college, Georgia; Professor John Spencer Bassett of Trinity college, North Carolina; and Professor S. C. Mitchell of Richmond college, Virginia, were powers in colleges that did much to fight both antagonism and indifference to the Negro.

The forces of liberalism have perhaps worked slowly but with surprising consistency. Once a college is in the liberal column it has been next to impossible for political demagogues, ecclesiastical reactionaries, "negrophobe" editors, or any of the most virulent forces of hate such as the Klan and the Society of Black Shirts, to force it backward.

The University of North Carolina early took a lead as the most liberal institution in the South in this field. Dr. Howard W. Odum at the head of a nationally recognized Institute for Research in the Social Sciences has directed a large share of the department's attention to subjects pertaining to the Negro. One of the developments at the University of North Carolina was the vote of the graduate students in favor of permitting enrollment of properly qualified Negro students in the graduate departments. It is hard, I think, to overemphasize the radical and progressive movement that had to be behind such an action on the part of white students in a Southern state university.

Church Colleges Lead

With the exception of a state university leading in the field, the interracial movement is fairly obviously dominated by religious motives and by denominational and church-related colleges. The colleges of the former Southern Methodist Church are particularly outstanding. The forward-looking attitude of Duke's *South Atlantic Quarterly,* including quite naturally many contributions of Negroes, expresses the stand of Duke university. The students on this campus are probably as liberal as those of the University of North Carolina.

Southern Methodist university, located in an old Klan stronghold, is an active liberal center in the Southwest, and Emory university similarly located in Atlanta is the same for Georgia and adjoining states.

Maryville college in Tennessee and Agnes Scott college in Georgia, both schools of the Presbyterian church, are considered by R. B. Eleazer, secretary of the Commission on Interracial Cooperation, Atlanta, Ga., as being distinctly progressive in their administrative approach to the race problem, and student attitudes in these institutions are, on the whole, well in accord with the liberal administration.

Berea college, in Kentucky, founded by an abolitionist and having for a time admitted both by Negro and white students, still carries its traditional liberal approach to the race issue.

These phenomena of liberalism, still more or less isolated, are not only important in themselves, but at the same time they show the drift of southern sentiment away from the attitudes held just after the Civil war.

On campuses not administratively liberal, the liberal groups are nearly always in or are sponsored by religious organizations, usually the Y.M.C.A. or the Y.W.C.A.

The old conception of religion as simply something you "got" which saved you, had long dominated our student religious groups in the South. All too often the Y.M.C.A. and Y.W.C.A. interested groups of a-bit-too-holy people

who were left out of the social life of the campus, and who professed a religion that may have saved them to a future life but lost them to all sense of social responsibility. Since the Christian organizations in the South are still so broad in membership as frequently to include from 75% to 100% of the student body, this old conception of religion usually still dominates, although it is sometimes sublimated into a deeper personal religion.

But the break has been made. The work begun by Raymond Robins and John M. Childs in the East eventually became the theme of the liberal South. A prophetic, ethical, and social religion has taken hold of a large part of the leadership of our religious groups. If in the colleges there has been a mounting of cynicism and utilitarianism, there has likewise been a rise of concrete, realistic idealism applied to the issues of the present world.

Millsaps in Mississippi

Millsaps college, in Jackson, Mississippi, might possibly have been listed with the administratively liberal colleges, but to me it is the dynamic purpose of a small group of students and faculty members who have earned Millsaps college its liberal reputation for doing things and taking unpopular stands in the state where Negro conditions are probably worst. The Y.M. and Y.W.C.A.'s have organized and sponsored the Intercollegiate Council, made up of seven nearby Negro colleges and Millsaps. This is an active organization which holds monthly meetings where problems of common interest to both races are discussed rather than specifically interracial problems.

Naturally both the Y.M. and Y.W.C.A. exchange programs with Christian Association groups from Negro colleges, and often a social hour is held for the guests after one of these meetings.

After the particularly vicious double lynching that took place near Duck Hill, Miss., several years ago, the International Relations club and the American Student Union chapters sent telegrams to Senators Harrison and Bilbo urging them to support the anti-lyching bill then before the Senate. Bilbo immediately let out a blast of Vardaman-like demagoguery directed at "communistic, nigger-loving young college students" and caused the quiet, unassuming editor of the student paper, Victor Roby, to take an editorial stand that brought him and Millsaps into the foreground of liberal student America. Yet it is estimated that only thirty or forty students and faculty members at Millsaps could be said to have done constructive work on this problem.

At other schools the situation is much the same. At Louisiana State university, the Y.M.C.A. and Y.W.C.A. groups hold forums, swap programs with Negro groups, and began back in 1937 to hold annual interracial area conferences, but students estimate that there are about twenty, out of a student body of eight thousand, who are really doing the work.

Of an enrollment of five thousand at the University of Alabama, where the program is much the same, a former Y.M.C.A. president estimates that there are some twenty-five to thirty "real radicals" in the field of race relations. The University of Georgia has a nucleus of fifteen or twenty students who are actively interested in race problems; twenty or thirty University of Kentucky students take part in the interracial education groups; and, speaking of my alma mater, I should guess that there are perhaps fifteen or sixteen students of this type at the University of Mississippi.

The Woman's College of the University of North Carolina, though officially a part of the state university, is far behind the Chapel Hill division on this point. Credible estimates are that hardly five or six of the eighteen hundred students would back a constructive liberal race program at the present time. The Y.M.C.A. has been so completely under the control of the administration that it has had really no force, on this campus, for social reform. A recently added director of religious activities, however, is perhaps working some improvements.

When the interracial student council for Bethune-Cookman and Rollins was formed, the organization work depended on a group of about sixteen.

Content with Status Quo

So we could go on listing school after school where nearly all traces of the old bitter antagonism are gone, but where a quiet indifference, an assurance that the *status quo* is correct, is in full swing. The student bodies as a whole are not awake to the issues at stake at all, but in each school there is usually a highly intelligent, truly courageous group, frequently at the positions of leadership in student religious groups, who are bringing to an ever-widening circle of students a prophetic social message that is characteristic of the entire Student Christian Movement.

Indifference has frequently been called the educator's greatest foe, but in this case I cannot help believing that the old post-Civil war attitudes of a few schools are distinctly more formidable.

At Mississippi State Teachers College, in spite of the years of service put in there by one of the ablest student workers in the South, much of the old, old attitude of brutal superiority persists. Perhaps the type of student at this school comes from a slightly lower economic level and feels the pinch of Negro competition to a greater extent. For example, competent judges say that the student body as a whole justified and even approved of the Duck Hill outrage.

In the same state the student bodies of Millsaps and the University of Mississippi would never take such a position. On the whole the type of student is different because he is farther from the economic level of the Negro population. The old heritage of hate, however, built up by centuries of economic competition, is still to be broken down in the hearts and minds of many students in the junior and senior colleges of the deep South.

Northerners Liberal, but Inactive

In direct contrast, as we go farther north and into Virginia, the students themselves are apparently more liberal. Randolph-Macon, with its large percentage of northern students, is very conscious of the problem and supports its program of education and appreciation fairly well. Fredericksburg State Teachers college, according to a student, is rather quietly liberal in its student attitudes.

When I compare the program of the ten to thirty students in the colleges of the deep South with those of the Virginia and Kentucky schools, the contrast is amazing. It is the firebrands on the "dead" campuses who are doing things, while the apparently more liberal-minded student bodies either do nothing, or talk and do little. Of course, lest this seem too condemnatory, let it be said that there is more to be done in the deep South than in the middle states, and more opportunity for doing it naturally presents itself because there is such a large Negro population in the deep South.

While it is safe to say that the real motivation of the interracial movement in the colleges comes from the student himself, it should not be forgotten that usually in each center of liberal activity there has been a mature person who has been able to give to intelligent students the new outlook which they need. The Secretary of the Interracial Commission has on his mailing list people in some two hundred sixty-five Southern colleges who are cooperating in carrying on the vast program of education in racial affairs. The adult leadership furnished by the colleges and by religious organizations is vital in the work of changing student attitudes.

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"De Lawd" and Jazz

An Incident in the Life of Richard B. Harrison

By Mercer Cook

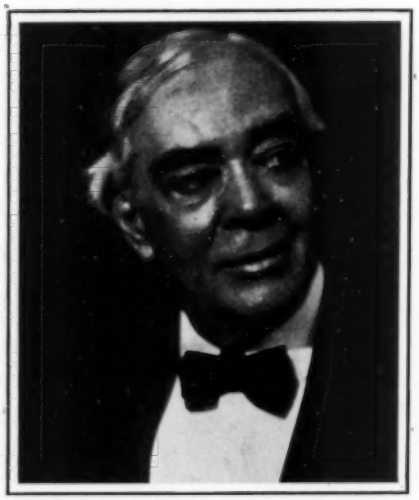
IT was back in 1922 that my father introduced me to a kindly, distinguished-looking, elderly gentleman who somehow impressed me as being out of place in New York.

"This is Dick Harrison," my father said; "he and I used to do joint concerts back in the early nineties."

This formality observed, my presence was almost immediately forgotten. The two old friends were reviving memories of the past, of *Clorinda;* of the Columbian Exposition held in Chicago in 1893, where they first met Dunbar; of the young pianist whom Dad introduced to Mr. Harrison, and who subsequently became the latter's wife. From their reminiscences of by-gone days, they turned not to the present, but to the future. Mr. Harrison had hopes of presenting Shakespeare on Broadway with a Negro company—not a burlesque *Macbeth,* but the genuine article. My father, recently returned from Europe, was planning to reorganize his syncopated orchestra. Of the two projects, the latter seemed the more easily attainable.

"Wouldn't you like to come in with us, Dick?" my father asked. (It was difficult for the forgotten boy in the corner to imagine just how this gray-haired devotee of Shakespeare would fit into a syncopated orchestra, but my father had accoustomed me to surprises even more astounding. So, I said nothing.)

Rehearsals were in progress down at the old Clef Club headquarters on 53rd Street. Every afternoon, Paul Robeson, Carl White, the inimitable Tom Fletcher, Taylor Gordon, the unforgettable "Bass" Foster, the late Hartwell Cook, and a few others whose names I no longer remember, would practice vocal numbers. Sidney Bechet, Ralph "Shrimp" Jones, Henry Saparo, Duke Ellington's Broh, the late Julian Arthur, an unknown young man named Fletcher Henderson, and about twenty-odd musicians would be working on such current favorites at "Tiger Rag" and "When Hearts Are Young," as well as more difficult selections like Brahm's *Hungarian Dance* (Number Five), and Dvorak's *Bohemian Dances.* Georgette Harvey, the Rivera Sisters, and a young dancer, Bessie de Sessaure provided the feminine relief.



Four years ago in March, death came to famed Richard B. Harrison. Mr. Cook tells here the story of "De Lawd's" first appearance on the New York stage

Harrison and "Tiger Rag"?

Richard B. Harrison attended these daily meetings, but never rehearsed. I still failed to see how he and "Tiger Rag" were going to compete on the same program.

The show opened at Gibson's Dunbar theater in Philadelphia. From "Swing Along," our opening chorus, to the finale of the first act, a more responsive audience would not have been found. The orchestral offerings were vociferously applauded. Paul Robeson had to sing three encores after his magnificent rendition of J. Rosemond Johnson's "Li'l Gal." Georgette Harvey's "Eli, Eli" and "Love Sends a Little Gift of Roses" were little short of sensational. The show looked like a hit, to be sure, but the real test was yet to come. How would the audience react to Richard B. Harrison?

I felt a little sorry for that venerable gentleman as he walked out on the stage. Poor old man, I thought, his day is past; what the present-day public wants is music (we call it jazz), and the livelier the better. Mr. Harrison seemed less disturbed than I. Perfectly composed, he was smiling that friendly smile of his, and announcing that he would read a poem which one of his own children had inspired Paul Laurence Dunbar to write: "Little Brown Baby."

Audience Enchanted

By the end of the first stanza, he had convinced his listeners—and how they were listening!—that there actually was a baby on the stage. As a matter of fact, it didn't seem to be a stage anymore; it was just a room in a cabin. One could almost see the frightened expression on the infant's face, as his father called:

"Buggah man, buggah man, come in de do'
Hyeah's a bad boy you kin have fu' to eat."

And how relieved he must have felt when Dick Harrison held him close and chuckled:

"Go back, ol' buggah, you sh'n't have dis boy!"

With the final line, there was no doubt that the baby was fast asleep in his crib. Mr. Harrison even hummed part of a lullaby and tiptoed away lest he wake the "Spa'klin' Eyes" from their slumber, and the audience from its enchantment.

What seemed to be a full minute elapsed before the deafening applause shook the rafters. Even the youngsters in the theater apparently realized that they had just witnessed a performance of consummate artistry. Mr. Harrison then gave superb readings of works like "The Shooting of Dan McGrew" and "The Face on the Barroom Floor." Long before he had concluded I realized that the old gentleman whom I had considered *passé,* was in reality the feature attraction of the show. To add to my humiliation, I, who represented the younger generation, almost ruined the performance and did, in fact, terminate my short-lived artistic career, by reaching for a note that proved to be just beyond the territorial limits of my vocal register. That evening, at the midnight show, which Al Jolson and all his company attended, Mr. Harrison was

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Editorials

Editor, ROY WILKINS
Advisory Board: Lewis Gannett, Arthur B. Spingarn, Sterling A. Brown, William Allan Neilson, Walter White, Charles Edward Russell, Carl Murphy, John Hammond

Notice to Alabama

EXACTLY four weeks after its opinion February 12 in the case of the four colored men from Florida whose death sentences were reversed because torture was used to get them to "confess," the United States supreme court on March 11 reversed the conviction of Dave Canty, a colored man sentenced to die in Alabama for the murder of a nurse. Canty, like Chambers of Florida, had been brutally tortured to make him admit his guilt.

The remarkable aspect of the Canty case was its reversal without an argument. Attorneys for the N.A.A.C.P. asked the high court in the usual manner to grant a writ of certiorari and agree to accept briefs and hear oral argument. But the case was so flagrant, and was such a parallel of the Florida case, that the court granted the writ and reversed the conviction without bothering to hear argument.

Elsewhere in this issue is an editorial comment from *The New York Times,* citing the Canty and Chambers cases as evidence that the "high court stands on guard with flaming sword over the rights of every one of us."

With pride and becoming modesty we point out that these two cases were carried up by lawyers representing the N.A.A.C.P., and that this association now has fourteen victories before the highest court out of fifteen cases taken there. Due credit should go to these attorneys and to the association for the skill and persistence in fighting through to the supreme court those issues upon which hang the rights of all of us.

Robert S. Abbott

NO real study of the importance of the Negro press in the lives of the people it serves has been made to date, but when it is done the work of Robert S. Abbott, editor and publisher of *The Chicago Defender,* who died February 29, will loom large in the undertaking. For Mr. Abbott was the pioneer in the national Negro weekly field. His paper was read from coast to coast and even across the seas.

His concern for the welfare of his people was such, and his resentment at their mistreatment so deep and so forthrightly expressed, that *The Defender* enjoyed the unique distinction for many years of being "bootlegged" in many southern states. Merely the sight of the paper sent postmasters and police into a rage. One had to buy it furtively, with the result that more, rather than fewer, copies were sold. The mass migrations of the war years and the early Twenties were caused by economic factors coupled with the shutting off of emigration; but in no small part they were prodded by the incessant clamor of *The Defender* against the injustices of the South and its demand that Negroes leave virtual enslavement for better opportunities elsewhere.

Now for A Vote

SINCE the sub-committee of the Senate judiciary committee has reported the federal anti-lynching bill favorably and the full judiciary committee is expected to approve it before March 30, the task remaining for the supporters of this measure is to get it to a vote in the Senate. That has always been the principal stumbling block. Three times has this type of bill passed the House (one Republican House and two Democratic ones) and three times has it been filibustered to death in the Senate (one Republican Senate and two Democratic ones) without giving it a chance to be voted upon on its merits.

Everyone knows, including the die-hard opponents, that if this bill comes to a vote it will pass. The majority of the Senate and the majority of the people want a federal law against lynching. Write your senators asking them to work to bring up this bill and to vote for it. While we are spreading humanity into Finland, Poland, China, and other far-off places, let us have a little of it here in America—enough, at least, to make clear that the government will act against mobs that hang, shoot and burn citizens without benefit of judge or jury.

Scottsboro Again

ALABAMA continues the tragic farce of the Scottsboro cases by denying the applications for parole of the five defendants still in prison. The new pardon board which considered the applications reveals its failure to grasp the situation by announcing that hereafter the case will not be considered as the "Scottsboro case" but as individuals in prison. After the mess Alabama has made of these cases and the world-wide publicity the state has received, a pardon board has the naiveté to believe that by simple pronouncement it can change what has become a part of the history of America.

There are two facts which Alabama refuses to face. First, in 1933, Judge James Horton, of the Alabama circuit court, set aside the verdict of guilty in one of the Heywood Patterson trials on the ground that the weight of the evidence was in favor of the defendant. This was no "outsider's" opinion. This was the sober judgment of an Alabama jurist who knew the law of his state, who knew the social and racial patterns of his state and section, and who had sat through a trial, listening carefully to every scrap of evidence against a black boy accused of raping a white woman. He concluded that the weight of evidence was preponderantly—and preponderantly is his word—in favor of the defendant.

Second, four of the nine defendants, convicted on the identical evidence, were set free by Alabama in 1937. If all nine were convicted on the same evidence and the state subsequently released four as innocent, how can the remaining five be held as guilty?

Alabama thus serves notice to the world that humanity, decency, justice, facts, have no weight in a case of this kind. To be white is to be right and to be black is to be wrong. In this month of March, 1940, the ninth anniversary of the arrest of the Scottsboro youths at Paint Rock, Ala., one can hardly believe that in America such a conception of human rights still exists.

Aid the Census

IT is the duty of every citizen to aid in the taking of the census which begins April 1. There is a special obligation upon colored people because they must depend upon census information as support for much of what they demand as citizens. They need it to defend their ratio to the whole population. They need the census to refute arguments that they do not own property and pay few taxes. They need it for literacy information, for statistics on the type and extent of employment and unemployment, for church membership, for Negroes of voting age, for population distribution as between sections of the country, and between urban and rural districts, for types and amounts of business owned and operated by the race, and for a thousand other matters. From now until 1950, most people in the United States will judge Negroes, as a race, by what the 1940 census reveals. Accurate answers to the questions will help the race to its proper status.

De Lawd

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once again the highlight of the program.

Our next engagement was at the Lafayette theater, where we had an artistic success but financial difficulties. What we really needed was a manager. When Saturday night came, there were exactly forty dollars with which to pay the entire cast. I have often marvelled at the manner in which Paul Robeson, Dick Harrison and most of the company accepted these setbacks. To them, such reverses were a part of the game.

The Fare to Washington

In the meantime, other theaters were booking us. Washington was the next stop, but had it not been for Dick Harrison, we probably would never have filled the engagement. The unfortunate experience at the Lafayette had left us without railroad fare. Nevertheless the entire company assembled at the Pennsylvania station, hoping that tickets had been wired by those who were presenting us in the nation's capital. Unfortunately, the Station Master had no record of any such transaction. Something had obviously gone wrong, and for a moment, it seemed that the syncopated orchestra would syncopate no more.

"We'll pay our own fares," I suddenly heard Mr. Harrison say. "Here are one hundred dollars to start the ball rolling!" The show opened in Washington that night, thanks to this sacrifice on the part of a poor man whose sole source of income had probably been his engagements in small churches and Young Men's Christian Associations.

Washington, Baltimore, the Century theater in New York, and then a few weeks in vaudeville concluded our company's brief existence. Richard B. Harrison and other members of the troupe went on to greater triumphs. Our little venture had at least provided "De Lawd" with his first appearance on the New York stage. Incidentally, A. L. Burt, who had been manager of the Lafayette theater, during our ill-fated visit, later booked much of the talent used in Marc Connelly's play. It was Dick Harrison's triumph with the syncopated orchestra that made Mr. Burt select him for the rôle which was to make him and "The Green Pastures" immortal.

March 16 was the fourth anniversary of the death of Richard B. Harrison. How unfortunate it is that future generations of Negroes will not witness his portrayal of "De Lawd" or his rendition of "Little Brown Baby"! Even more regrettable, however, is the fact that they will never come in contact with the noble, friendly and generous spirit which made those performances possible.

Farm Security

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ants and croppers have made the step to ownership with this assistance.

Homestead Projects

Possibly the most talked-of part of this program—the Farm Security homestead projects—are serving the dual purpose of providing patterns for progressive agriculture and giving several thousand farm families of like status and interests a chance to work together, much in the manner of the old pioneer communities, sharing social life, and assisting each other wherever possible. They are getting, also, a knowledge of the value of group purchasing and marketing, of producing as a group certain commodity specialties—a certain variety of cotton, a special kind of peanuts or potatoes, or one breed of hogs. And they are learning to secure and make use of community-owned services and equipment. These same services and equipment, together with medical care, have been made available to the much larger number of rehabilitation and tenant-purchase farmers through community-service loans and medical care associations.

Somewhat similar communities known as rental cooperatives have been established in high-tenancy areas, with renting on an acceptable standard, rather than ownership, as a basis. Here the idea has been to prove the workability, from the standpoint of profit and loss to both landlord and tenant, of good housing, health protection, and self-maintenance. Some two thousand Negro farmers are sharing this experience.

So the program takes shape as a whole plan for a given part of the country's population, influencing farm management patterns, tenure arrangements, land use practices, credit rates, diet, sanitation and health, community facilities, techniques of cultivation, crop and acreage distribution and stability of residence.

For a long time to come there will be the need for adjustment of farm population to land resources, and an absence of industrial outlets in making such adjustments. Whatever will help the man already on the farm to make a decent living there on a comparatively small acreage, without too much dependance on cash crops, is the pattern that the low-income farmer will need to follow. And this will be doubly true of the Negro farmer, with less opportunity than most to acquire productive land, with less access to credit, and less exposed to education, progressive thinking and normal community life. So far he has shown himself ready and able to keep step with his fellows in the direction of a long-overdue agricultural readjustment.

New Rebels

(*Continued from page* 111)

Blue Ridge Influential

Blue Ridge has been a veritable center of liberal student thinking. Though a few would think him "too slow," probably the typical liberal southern white would say that Dr. W. D. Weatherford, founder of Blue Ridge and now of Fisk university, has the soundest and most feasible attitude toward the whole problem. Each year several hundred students spend a little time at Blue Ridge, then go back to their quiet, slow-moving colleges with a fresh determination to awaken their campuses to the cause of racial justice. Students leaving Blue Ridge feel that today is no time to merely sit and talk about religion; it is a day rather to stand against the order of mankind—her ancient hates and prejudices, her continuing exploitation of backward and impoverished peoples, her whitewashing of festering injustices with Christianity.

Truly the improvement of race relations is going on. Its advance has little of the fanfare that marks many of our public crusades, but none the less it is real. In spite of disgusting demagoguery of certain types of politicians and some remains of brutalizing kluxery, the South is coming to realize that Negroes are men and sons of the same God as their white brothers.

The many failures, the still tragic conditions, and the long way to be traveled upward are evident on every hand. The conventional mold of today's actions and ideas are the result of the tragedy of blind prejudice and human stupidity, which when they have become the *mores* of a people cannot be changed in a day. But something within the very heart of the South has already changed, and slowly but inevitably she will change her traditional actions and modes of thought to fit the ideal that is beginning to shine within.

Southern students will never become a red flame leading a revolution which will turn the world upside down, but in them is an intangible strength, an assured power thrown not for the conditions of today but for the dreams and ideals of tomorrow. Theirs is an almost irresistible movement to build slowly and quietly a New South.

From the Press of the Nation

Editorial of the Month

Due Process

New York *Times*, N. Y.

FOR the second time in a month the Supreme Court has reversed the conviction of a Negro on the ground that his confession had been illegally obtained. Reference was made in the decision, which this time was not accompanied by a formal opinion, to the opinion delivered by Justice Black in the case of four Florida Negroes on February 12. It is worth while to recall one or two fine passages in the Feb. 12 opinion. After pointing out that the Florida prisoners had not confessed until they had been exposed to a week of almost continuous "grilling," Justice Black went on to say:

"To permit human lives to be forfeited upon confessions thus obtained would make of the constitutional requirement of due process of law a meaningless symbol. . . . Due process of law . . . commands that no such practice as that disclosed by this record shall send any accused to his death. No higher duty, no more solemn responsibility, rests upon this court than that of translating into living law and maintaining this constitutional shield deliberately planned and inscribed for the benefit of every human being subject to our Constitution—of whatever race, creed or persuasion."

The implications of these two decisions are not limited to the southern states or to the Negro race. They cover the use of the third degree, or violence or threats by any officer of the law in any state against any prisoner. In protecting the "poor, the ignorant, the numerically weak, the friendless and the powerless" (to quote again from the Feb. 12 opinion), the high court stands on guard with flaming sword over the rights of every one of us.

According to reports published last week, membership in the Communist Party in Harlem has declined from an estimated high of 5,000 members in the spring of 1939 to about 250 members at the present time. It was also reported that James Ford, leading Negro Communist and two times candidate for vice president of the United States, has been removed from power in the party councils and "kicked upstairs" to a position of special party representative in Mexico. The report also charged that there are only fifty paid-up Negro Communists in Harlem. . . . New York, N. Y., *Age*.

The passing of Robert S. Abbott, who founded *The Chicago Defender* in 1905 and served as its editor and publisher until his death last week at sixty-nine years of age, removed from the scene the man, who, perhaps more than anyone else influenced the thought and development of modern Negro journalism. He was a pioneer in the field—a field he loved and one he served religiously throughout his active days in the editorial chair. . . . New York, N. Y., *Amsterdam News*.

That little military unpleasantness in Europe has engendered a diplomatic relationship between Germany and the Soviet that may soon result in the absorption of all the smaller adjacent countries, and ultimately, in the destruction of England's vast power. Stranger things have happened. . . . Cincinnati, Ohio, *Union*.

A Negro college president once made the statement at a public meeting that "What we need is more organization and less organizations." Then there would be no continual upspringing of organizations to duplicate the work of others already started. The logical thing to do is to contribute your part of a larger and well-established organization which in turn would devote a certain phase of the program to work on and carry to a successful end. . . . New Orleans, La., *Louisiana Weekly*.

The Scottsboro boys should be freed! Clemency, if not full pardon, is due them, and the Negroes of the United States for whom their suffering won fair play in the courts, should get it for them.

Negroes can get the Scottsboro boys freed! It may not be done easily and quickly, but if they go at it and keep at it, they will win out.

Not Alabama, but Negroes, are the unknown quantity affecting this situation. The question is have they the staying qualities to knock on the door of justice until they are heard, knock though their hands bleed?

Alabama keeps the Scottsboro boys in prison not because it is bent on punishing a single crime, but because it does not yet admit that Negroes shall have the same standing in the courts. . . . Kansas City, Mo., *Call*.

A powerful demonstration of the need for enactment of the anti-lynching bill, now tied up in Senate committee after passage by the House, is provided by the attitude of local authorities after the mob outbreak at Snow Hill, Md., Tuesday night.

At least 40 of the persons who battered their way into the jail and carried off two Negro women are known to Sheriff J. William Hall, but he intends to let the matter drop. "There has been no demand for action against the mob," he explains.

The local State's Attorney, William Kerbin, also washes his hands. "It is not my job to lead the investigation," he says. "We have not heard any complaints from any parties."

The state troopers earned sole credit for rescuing the women.

State troopers cannot be everywhere, and if county authorities are not on the job, what is to restrain the mob? The anti-lynching bill, which provides for penalties on the counties and the local officers under whose jurisdiction a lynching occurs is designed to put zeal for law and order into places where it is now lacking. . . . St. Louis, Mo., *Post Dispatch*.

The week of April seventh will be a red letter day for the Negro in reference to the United States Post Office Department because during that week the first stamp it has ever issued commemorating the achievements of a Negro will be placed on sale. This unusual honor conferred by the post office department is made in behalf of Booker T. Washington whose face will be printed on the stamp. This particular issue will be in stamps of ten-cent denomination and the color will be brown. . . . Savannah, Ga., *Tribune*.

In the demise of Robert S. Abbott, the one we called "the dean" of Negro newspapers of the 20th Century, the race and nation have lost a champion of human rights. . . . St. Louis, Mo., *Argus*.

Along the N.A.A.C.P. Battlefront

N.A.A.C.P. Wins Fourteenth Victory in U. S. supreme court

Without hearing oral arguments, the United States supreme court on Monday, March 11, reversed an Alabama supreme court decision which had affirmed the conviction and death sentence of Dave Canty, 26-year-old Negro youth accused of murdering a white nurse in Montgomery, Alabama, March 19, 1938.

Basing its order on the now famous Lincoln Day decision handed down last February 12 in the Florida torture case, the high court for the second time within a month, specifically denied the validity of confessions obtained through torture. The court thus again reaffirmed the Fourteenth amendment to the Constitution, which guarantees to every citizen accused of a crime, the right to a fair trial.

Canty was sentenced to die July 15, 1938, but the sentence was stayed pending an appeal. On June 22, 1939, the supreme court of Alabama affirmed the conviction and death sentence, later denying a rehearing of the case.

The murder charge against Canty grew out of the attack upon Eunice and Lillian Ward, two white nurses in Montgomery, during March, 1938. As a result of the attack Lillian Ward died. The Governor of Alabama offered a thousand-dollar reward for the killer. Officers went through the Negro section of Montgomery announcing the reward offer, and arrested many Negro citizens.

A Negro fortune teller "remembered", on being told by a policeman of the $1,000 reward, that Dave Canty had told her that "he was in trouble" and was going to Mobile, Ala. Her story sent police officers after the youth. After administering a severe beating the officers brought Canty back to Montgomery, continued to torture him, and placed him in the underground dungeon of Kilby prison.

Here the prisoner remained for a week without having any charge preferred against him. Despite the torture, Canty refused to admit any connection with the crime. A confession was finally forced from him when he was taken from Kilby prison to the basement of the Montgomery police headquarters, and there "strung up" until he agreed to make a statement admitting guilt "voluntarily and of his own free will."

Thurgood Marshall, special counsel for the association, represented Canty, together with Leon A. Ransom, of the N.A.A.C.P. national legal committee; and Alex. C. Birch, of Montgomery, Ala. The case marked the fourteenth victory for the N.A.A.C.P., out of fifteen cases carried before the United States supreme court.

Sub-Committee Votes 5-1 For Anti-Lynching Bill

The sub-committee of the Senate judiciary committee on March 13 voted 5-1 to report the federal anti-lynching bill favorably to the full judiciary committee.

Senator Tom Connally of Texas cast the only vote against a favorable report. Those who voted for the bill were: Senators Van Nuys, Indiana, chairman; Neely, West Virginia; Austin, Vermont; Wiley, Wisconsin; and McCarran, Nevada.

It was expected that the full judiciary committee would report the bill favorably to the Senate on March 19 or 20. Then it will be placed on the calendar and the fight to get it up for a vote will begin.

Senators Robert F. Wagner of New York, Frederick Van Nuys of Indiana, and Arthur Capper of Kansas, co-sponsors of the bill, have announced that they will ask for the invoking of the cloture rule (limitation of debate) if a filibuster should develop against the bill.

Senator Arthur Vandenberg, frequently mentioned as a Republican nominee, has announced that if all other methods of breaking a filibuster should prove ineffective, he will vote for cloture.

Senator Connally of Texas, leader of the seven-week filibuster early in 1938 against a similar bill, has stated that this measure will be opposed to the last ditch by southern senators and this statement is taken to mean that Connally will head another filibuster when the bill reaches the floor.

Letters to Senators Will Aid Bill

One of the most effective means of helping the anti-lynching bill is the writing of letters to senators from the voters back home, it was stated by the N.A.A.C.P.

"But the letters to be most effective," said the statement, "should be personal letters written by individual citizens. Form letters, mimeographed or printed letters and post cards are not very effective. Telegrams, of course, are effective, but they too should not be form telegrams. The best letters are those from Mr. and Mrs. Ordinary Citizen. They do not need to be long and they should urge the senators from their state to work to get the bill before the Senate and to vote for it."

New York Manufacturer Includes N.A.A.C.P. in Will

M. L. Adler, manufacturer of bowling alley equipment, who died February 19, remembered the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in his will.

The exact amount which will go to the N.A.A.C.P. is not known, however, since it is to share with four other organizations in the income from the residuary estate. The amount of the residuary estate or the rate of income are not known, therefore, the sum which the N.A.A.C.P. will receive cannot be announced.

The association, however, is to receive one-twelfth of the net income from the residuary estate, which will be divided and paid out annually. The official announcement said the residuary estate was "more than $10,000."

Mr. Adler's will revealed him to be concerned with the welfare of all races and religions. He wrote:

"My dear wife—during her lifetime —and I reached the belief that a testator renders scant honor to his own church or his own relatives if he makes them his sole beneficiaries and neglects the general public from which wealth really comes."

Annual Conference Dates Changed to June 18–23

The dates selected for the 31st annual conference of the N.A.A.C.P. by the Richmond conference last June were June 25-30, inclusive, in Philadelphia, Pa., but because the Republican National Committee in February decided to hold the Republican National Convention in Philadelphia beginning June 24, the dates of the N.A.A.C.P. annual conference have been changed to a week earlier, June 18-23, inclusive. The sessions will be held in the famous Tindley

Temple on Broad street and already extensive preparations have been made by the Philadelphia branch, under the presidency of Dr. Harry Greene.

Testifies on Hospital Plan

Charles H. Houston, special counsel of the N.A.A.C.P., testified March 19 before the sub-committee of the Senate education and labor committee on the proposed plan to have the federal government build small hospitals over the country. This bill is S. 3230 and Mr. Houston spoke in behalf of the coordinating committee of Negro organizations interested in health, of which the N.A.A.C.P. is a member. Other cooperating organizations are:

American Federation of Teachers; American Missionary Association; Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters and Maids; Improved Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the World; National Alliance of Postal Employees; National Association of Colored Graduate Nurses; National Baptist Convention, U. S. A.; National Bar Association; National Council of Negro Women; National Federation of Colored Farmers; National Negro Insurance Company; National Sunday School and Baptist Training Union Congress; Phi Delta Kappa; Southern Negro Youth Congress.

Christmas Seal Sale Passes $4,000 Mark

The 1939 Christmas Seal Sale was one of the most successful in the history of the Association, according to the report of E. Frederic Morrow, Coordinator of Branches, who directed the campaign. One million seals were distributed by the national office to branches, youth councils, fraternal and business organizations, clubs, individuals, etc. More than $4,000 had been received to March 15, with many branches not yet heard from.

The N.A.A.C.P. is indebted to everyone who purchased seals, but especially grateful to those branches, youth councils, organizations and individuals who did a super-job of salesmanship and cooperation in putting over this effort. Listed here are the names of a few of those deserving special and public mention for a job well done:

Branches and Youth Councils and their Christmas Seal Chairman

ALABAMA: Anniston, James Echols; Tri-Cities, Mrs. Edna Kirk.

ARIZONA: Tucson, Mrs. Hazel Merrill.

ARKANSAS: Little Rock, Mrs. H. L. Porter; Pine Bluff, A. M. Parker.

CALIFORNIA: Los Angeles, Mrs. Elizabeth Edwards; Monrovia, William W. Robinson; Sacramento, Mrs. Alex B. Moore; Salinas, Mrs. Agnes Tebo; San Diego, Theodore M. Brinson; Stockton, Henry Grigsby; Tulare, Leonard Sheppard.

In her membership campaigns over the country Mrs. Daisy E. Lampkin, field secretary, is organizing honor groups of workers known as the Royal PANCAS. Membership in these groups goes to every worker who attains or exceeds the individual goal agreed upon at the beginning of the campaign. Above is shown the Springfield, Illinois, PANCAS. Sitting left to right: Miss Helen Holman, Miss Vivian Motley (first to reach the goal), Mrs. Leon Stewart. Standing left to right: Thomas J. Jackson, Mrs. Leola McWilliams, Mrs. Daisy Alexander, and Robert P. Taylor. Mrs. Anna Lee Davis was not present when the photo was taken

CONNECTICUT: Hartford, Miss Naomi McMillan.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA: Washington, D. C., Mrs. Gertrude B. Stone and Miss Lauretta Wallace.

FLORIDA: Lee County, Mrs. Eugenia Hodges; Pompano, Mrs. Daisy Brown; Tallahassee, Mrs. M. M. Pope; St. Petersburg, Branch and Youth Council, Miss O. Beatrice McLin; Tampa, Miss Miriam J. Anderson; West Palm Beach, Miss Annie L. Motley.

GEORGIA: Albany, Rev. M. F. Adams.

ILLINOIS: Bloomington-Normal, N. J. Henderson; Champaign-Urbana, Mrs. F. J. Jordan; Danville, Miss E. L. Allen; Rockford (Youth Council), Miss Jeanette Ethridge.

INDIANA: Hammond, David Jasper; Jeffersonville, Nathaniel Graves; Terre Haute, Mrs. D. E. Hood.

IOWA: Des Moines, Miss Georgine C. Morris; Keokuk, W. W. Gross; Waterloo, Mrs. M. F. Fields.

KANSAS: Crawford County, J. D. Johnson; Eldorado, Mrs. Florence Garland; Parsons, A. W. Robinson.

KENTUCKY: Louisville (Youth Council), George Bussey.

LOUISIANA: Baton Rouge, Mrs. Jessie Ricard.

MASSACHUSETTS: New Bedford, Cornelius B. Piper.

MARYLAND: Baltimore, Mrs. Lillie M. Jackson; Baltimore (Youth Council), Miss Ethel Logan.

MICHIGAN: Detroit, Mrs. Ada Summers; Detroit (Youth Council), Mr. and Mrs. George Williams; Grand Rapids, Mrs. Edmond Hinch; Lake County, Mrs. Addie Balton; Port Huron, Robert B. Knox.

MINNESOTA: Duluth, Mrs. Carrie L. Dozier; Minneapolis, Mrs. Hobart Mitchell; St. Paul, Theodore Allen.

MISSOURI: Kansas City, Mrs. Cozetta Seals; Jefferson City, Miss Elizabeth Cobb; St. Louis, E. C. Turner.

NEW JERSEY: Long Branch, Miss Madeline Mumby; Bayonne, Mrs. M. R. Farrar; Bridgeton, Miss Henrietta Wright; East Orange (Youth Council), Miss Lillian Anthony; Newark, John A. Jones; Orange, Mrs. M. Colson Woody; Paterson, William Armstead; Princeton, Mrs. Lena Gale; Rahway, George Clarke; Rahway (Youth Council), William Taylor; Jersey City, Mrs. Mary E. Pope.

NEW MEXICO: Albuquerque, Mrs. W. A. McDonald.

NEW YORK: Albany, Mrs. Jean Francis; New Rochelle, Mrs. Lillian Graves; Rochester, Miss Estelle Fitzgerald; Staten Island, Nathan F. Dujon; White Plains, Raymond Ayler.

NORTH CAROLINA: Asheville, Mrs. L. A. Michael; Durham, William J. Walker, Jr.; Rocky Mount, Mrs. Lendore Y. Brown.

OHIO: Akron, Miss Jessie E. Lytle; Cleveland (Youth Council), Miss Fayette B. McIntyre; Columbus, Mrs. Inez Holmes; Columbus (Youth Council), James L. Martin; Dover, Gilbert Ray; Mansfield, Miss Margarette Beck; Newark, Dr. Frank R. Veal.

OKLAHOMA: Ardmore, Mrs. Mary Mitchell; Chickasha, Mrs. E. Stevenson; Drumright, Lee A. Ward; Sapulpa, Miss Rosa L. Thompson; Tulsa, Emerald D. Smith.

PENNSYLVANIA: Chester, Miss Viola Fontaine; Philadelphia, Miss Mabel Simmons; Mercer County, Mrs. Raymond Jackson; Swarthmore-Morton (Youth Council) Miss Elva Glenn; Hollidaysburg, Mrs. James Daly.

RHODE ISLAND: Newport, Richard W. King.

SOUTH CAROLINA: Charleston, Rev. Kenneth Hughes; Cheraw, Levi G. Byrd; Columbia, Prof. J. E. Briggs; Sumter, Prof. James T. Cain.

TENNESSEE: Brownsville, Mrs. I. L. Newbern; Morristown College Chapter, Anderson Davis; Nashville, Mrs. B. F. Cox.

TEXAS: Houston (Youth Council), Miss Addie L. McDaniel; El Paso, Mrs. M. E. Bloodworth; San Antonio, Mrs. Mattie McCowan.

VIRGINIA: Chesterfield County, Mrs. Georgia L. Harris; Covington, Mrs. Natalie Cleveland; Danville, Miss P. L. Farrish; Halifax County, Mrs. Melba Jeffress; Hampton, Charles S. Isham; Louisa County, Rev. O. S. Robinson; Pocahontas, Mrs. Mamie Morgan; Richmond (Youth Council). Samuel Lewis; Richmond, Mrs. Lillian B. Brown; Virginia Union College Chapter, Miss Bathrus Bailey; Roanoke, Miss Justina K. Spencer.

WASHINGTON: Spokane, Mrs. E. D. Chappelle; Tacoma, Mrs. N. J. Asberry.

WEST VIRGINIA: Charleston, Mrs. Mamie J. Brown; Charleston (Junior Youth Council), Garnet High School, Miss Beatrice Battle; Montgomery, Mrs. Julia Wilkerson.

WISCONSIN: Beloit, Neal Harris.

Individuals and Organizations

Mrs. Harriet Granger, Bordentown, N. J.; Robert H. Wheeler, Newark, N. J.; A. A. Andrews, Canton, Ohio; Mrs. Memphis T. Garrison, Gary, West Virginia.

Georgia State College, Industrial College, Ga., E. L. Maxwell; Supreme Liberty Life Insurance Co., Chicago, Ill., Harry H. Pace; Dunbar Art and Study Club, Great Falls, Montana, Mrs. Lucille Novotny; Lincoln Young Men's Christian Assn., Summit, N. J., Fred S. A. Johnson; Cayuga Temple No. 54, IBPOEW, Ithaca, New York, Mrs. Sadye L. Queen; Rainbow Social Club, Lawrence, L. I., N. Y., Wilford Clark; Imperial Lodge No. 127, IBPOEW, New York City, Fred H. Williams; St. James Presbyterian Church, New York City, Rev., William Lloyd Imes; Friendly Inn Settlement, Cleveland, Ohio, Sydney B. Markey; Personality Club, Dayton, Ohio, Miss Thelma E. Oldham.

Branch News

California: More than 450 persons attended the meeting sponsored by the Pasadena branch in February, to hear talks on Lincoln and Douglass. The meeting followed the second annual banquet of the branch. Mrs. Louise W. Watkins and William Mills were principal speakers, and Mrs. Morris Durham was chairman of the committee in charge.

District of Columbia: At the March 12 meeting of the District branch, which was in celebration of the first anniversary of operation under the new charter, Dr. C. Herbert Marshall, president, announced plans for the membership campaign which is to open March 25. Mrs. Daisy E. Lampkin will direct the campaign in conjunction with the committee of which Wendell Irwin is chairman. A fashion revue will be the entertainment feature of the spring dance, scheduled for Easter Monday at the Lincoln Colonnade. U. S. Tate, chairman of the committee on labor and industry, reported on the conference with the assistant to the Secretary of Commerce regarding alleged discrimination. The meeting endorsed the principle embodied in the Kasper-Kefauver bill to provide for a public defender for the District of Columbia. Mrs. Gertrude Stone reported the introduction in the House of Representatives of a civil rights bill for the District. Walter White in Washington in connection with the Senate hearings on the anti-lynching bill, spoke briefly, congratulating the branch on its first year of work.

Florida: Commissioners received a letter from F. A. Dunn, secretary of the St. Petersburg branch, asking for an explanation of the recent action of the board in farming out Negro prisoners to Marion county for road work. It was announced that the county wanted only Negroes, and all those sentenced for more than 30 days would go.

Illinois: Mrs. Daisy E. Lampkin and Rev. Gay C. White were principal speakers at the Lincoln-Douglass celebration of the Springfield branch. Leon H. Steward was presented the seventh Webster plaque as the colored citizen selected as having made the greatest contribution in some field of endeavor in the past year. C. P. Ayer, of the Shell Oil company, was the donor. The membership campaign is under way, conducted by Mrs. Lampkin. Mrs. Irene Strange leads the women's division and W. D. Isabel is directing the men. Officers of the branch are: Simeon B. Osby, president; J. H. Wilson, vice-president; J. H. Hill, secretary; W. D. Isabel, assistant secretary; and L. T. Artis, treasurer.

The Danville branch sponsored a public tea in February at the Elk's Rest.

Indiana: Alderman Earl B. Dickerson was principal speaker at Hammond high school on March 12 under the auspices of the Hammond branch.

The nine point program of the Gary branch has attracted considerable attention in that city. The points include: a fair trial in the courts without discrimination; a right to sit upon the jury which passes judgment on the race; equal service in all places of public accommodation; equality in education; equality in employment and housing; abolition of discrimination in organized labor unions; and the ending of lynching. As a result of the branch activity, criminal prosecution is now pending in court in a case of violation of the short weight law. The branch has also protested the discrimination at St. Mary's Mercy Hospital, where patients and nurses are segregated.

Iowa: Members of the executive board of the Keokuk branch were guests in February of Mr. and Mrs. Raleigh Myers for a business meeting.

The workers in the Springfield, Ill., membership campaign: standing fifth from the left is W. D. Isabel, chairman of the men's division. Sitting fifth from the left is Mrs. Daisy E. Lampkin, field secretary; next, Simeon B. Osby, president; and next, Mrs. Irene Strange, chairman of the women's division in the campaign. The campaign which opened February 12, raised about $450

The Ottumwa branch has voted to retain an attorney permanently to handle legal affairs of the branch.

At the Lincoln-Douglass celebration of the Waterloo branch, Mrs. Georgine Morris, president of the Des Moines branch, Horace Van Metre, and Mrs. Lyda Page, president of the Waterloo branch, were speakers. Rev. C. J. Gunnell, of Christ Episcopal church, gave the invocation. Milton F. Fields, secretary, presided.

Kentucky: "A Challenge to the Unachieved" was the subject of the talk by S. F. Grigsby of Detroit, at the February public meeting of the Louisville branch.

Maryland: The Cumberland branch, of which Lewine M. Weaver is president, is sponsoring a drive for funds with which to build a community center. At a recent meeting at the Frederick street school, Elder H. Russell, state director of Negro activities of the NYA, said that the center might get city and NYA aid.

Massachusetts: The New Bedford branch recently presented a quiz period program at the Home for the Aged. Readings and vocal selections were also featured.

George G. Gordon, for 10 years president of the Springfield branch, was guest of honor at a testimonial banquet sponsored by the branch on February 16. Rev. E. L. Blake was toastmaster, and Roy Wilkins was principal speaker. Other speakers were James H. Higgins, Mrs. Stella Thomas, Olive Rainey, Margaret Carson, Charles E. Scott, Charles Whaling and A. Tavernier. Mr. Gordon was presented with a traveling bag and Mrs. Gordon with a corsage.

Minnesota: The February meeting of the St. Paul branch was held at the Hallie Q. Brown Community House, and was opened with a prayer by Rev. Wheeler. T. Allen reported on sale of Christmas seals, and Mrs. Elizabeth Hill reported on Stop-Lynching button sales. Letters have been sent to the Minnesota congress delegation regarding the passage of the anti-lynching bill. The branch resolved to support the Negro students' council of the University of Minnesota in prohibiting the showing of the picture "The Birth of a Nation" scheduled for showing at the university.

Missouri: A new branch has been installed in Columbia and it is reported that thirty members were enrolled at the first meeting. Officers elected are: president, Rev. E. S. Redd; vice-president, Dr. H. R. Boffman; secretary, Josephine Purnell; assistant sectretary, Robert Stevenson; treasurer, Minor Connor. Members of the executive board are Rev. F. H. Coleman, Rev. W. C. Thompson, Lucile Langford and Nelson Washington. Dean Pickens was speaker at the meeting.

Dean Pickens was guest speaker at the newly organized branch meeting at Mexico, at which thirty-three members were enrolled. Officers elected were: Charles Duncan, president; E. P. Wrightstell, vice-president; Hazel Douglas, secretary; Orphetta Woolery, assistant secretary; R. L. Clemmons, treasurer.

The Hannibal branch was launched with thirty-nine members at a meeting at the Allen Chapel, following an address by Dean Pickens. Officers are as follows: president, Theodore Tate; vice-president, William Sephus; secretary, Mrs. Laura B. Hall; treasurer, Arthur Green; chaplain, Rev. C. A. Long.

New Jersey: At a recent meeting of the Princeton branch held at the Witherspoon Presbyterian church, with Dr. D. W. Anthony presiding, Dr. Charles A. Lewis of

(*Continued on page* 121)

The Treasurer Says—

Miss Ovington

THE sale of Christmas seals is surpassing our expectations. The returns are not all in but on March 20 they amounted to $4073. Five thousand was the goal set and we make our goal high.

Sometimes misunderstandings arise regarding travelling expenses of field workers and as one who in the past has done her share of travelling I will try to explain how the office deals with this matter.

In the first place, all our active branches at the beginning of each year accept an apportionment agreed upon by the national office and the branch. This apportionment is the branch's contribution toward the expense of the Association and its work.

Now the money that a branch gives toward travelling expenses is credited to its apportionment. As a matter of convenience the money is sometimes given directly to a field worker. The sum is not determined by measuring the distance from one branch to another and charging accordingly, but is reckoned on the basis of the expense of the whole trip. Thus if Mr. Pickens should make a short trip in New York state visiting Albany, Troy, Schenectady, Utica, Syracuse, Rochester and Buffalo, and returning on a night train the expense of the trip would be divided among the seven branches, although a large branch might be asked to give more than a small one. The money contributed is no way a personal transaction, but is credited to the branch and entered against the amount budgeted for travelling.

"Tell me about Life Memberships." This query came to the treasurer a few days ago and she found the answer one that should interest the Association's friends.

In the annual report for 1927 is this statement:

"The Board of Directors have authorized a bronze tablet upon which will be inscribed the name of each life member. This tablet will be kept on display at the national office so long as the Association exists, or in some place where its historical significance will be properly recognized by future generations. As a mark of appreciation the Board of Directors have authorized the casting of a bronze medal, properly inscribed, to be presented to each person taking out a life membership."

Here is a copy of the tablet. The names are placed in the order in which the members joined:

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE

Hereunder are set the names of those who have become Life Members of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People by giving each into its Treasury the sum of Five Hundred Dollars, thereby testifying forever to their faith in the cause and the future of the Negro People of the United States, and in the Foundation Principles of the American Republic.

JOHN B. NAIL
ERNEST R. ALEXANDER
JOHN H. HOWARD
MARY WHITE OVINGTON
*J. E. SPINGARN
*MARY EVANS WILSON
*CHARLES K. OVINGTON
ELIZABETH OVINGTON
ARTHUR B. SPINGARN
AMY E. SPINGARN
JESTINA ROY
HARRY E. DAVIS
*A. WILBERFORCE WILLIAMS
HELEN DAVIS WASHINGTON
*ALBERT E. PILLSBURY
JOHN M. DREW
*NEVAL H. THOMAS
LOUIS T. WRIGHT
LOUISE W. DAVIS
THE AFRO-AMERICAN NEWSPAPERS
ELEANORA K. TERRELL
ELEANOR ALEXANDER
NATHAN R. MARGOLD
LILLIAN A. ALEXANDER
ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA
DUKE ELLINGTON
MARSHALL FIELD
JOHN L. REEVES
MARIAN ANDERSON
ELLEN FORD BROOKS

* Deceased

A life membership is five hundred dollars. This may be paid all at once or in five installments of $100 each. We have a number of people and organizations that have not yet completed their payments.

Our life membership, the third on the list, came in a dramatic way. John H. Howard entered the office, went up to Frank M. Turner, our bookkeeper and accountant, and said he would like to take out a life membership. He then put his hand in his pocket, took out a roll of bills, and counted out five hundred dollars. After receiving his receipt

he left the office and we have seen him only once since. Mr. Howard, a colored man, is a manufacturer of shoe polish.

Anyone wanting to emulate this breath-taking gift will find Mr. Turner at his desk in the center of the outer office ready to make out the receipt.

Just as the proof on this page was being read March 20, the afternoon mail brought a new, paid-up life member, Mrs. Ellen Ford Brooks, of Swiftwater, Pa. Mrs. Ford, a colored woman, sent her check for $500 after reading this page in the February CRISIS and writing me a letter for more detailed information on life memberships. Mrs. Ford has been a member of the NAACP since 1917, a sustaining member contributing ten dollars a year.

EDITOR'S NOTE: The occasional mention of the race of donors is purely for the information and inspiration of our readers, since we receive many queries each year as to the ratio of support given the NAACP by white and colored people.

First NAACP Student Conference At Virginia Union U. March 29-31

PLANS have been completed for the First Annual Student Conference of the N.A.A.C.P. to be held at Virginia Union university, Richmond, Virginia, March 29-31. The first call was sent to all N.A.A.C.P. college chapters, and to fraternities, sororities, Y.M. and Y.W.C.A.'s, and other student organizations on about 250 Negro and white campuses in the North, East, South and Midwest.

The theme of the conference, "Resources for Democracy in Youth" will be carried out in discussion groups Saturday morning and afternoon on Democracy In Education, led by Judge William H. Hastie; Politics and Government, led by Jack McMichaels, Jr., president of the American Youth Congress; Security and Opportunity, led by Dorothy Height, secretary of the Phyllis Wheatley Y.W.C.A., Washington, D. C.; Relationship of Minority Struggles, led by Marjorie Penney, of the Young Peoples Interracial Fellowship, Philadelphia, Pa.

On Sunday morning, a symposium on "Strategy and Techniques for minority Groups" will be led by William Richardson, president of the Richmond youth council. Other discussion leaders and resource persons will be, Prof. Reid P. Jackson, instructor at West Virginia State college; Gloster B. Current, student at West Virginia State college and former president of the Detroit N.A.A.C.P. youth council; Welton P. Henderson, N.Y.A. State Supervisor of Negro Affairs in Virginia; William Richardson, president of the Richmond N.A.A.C.P. youth council; and William Anderson, of Greenville, South Carolina, principal figure and victim in the recent Klan uprising in Greenville.

The welcome address on Friday night will be given by Dr. William J. Clark, president of Virginia Union university, and the main addresses by Walter White and Rev. James H. Robinson, acting director of youth work for the N.A.A.C.P. The closing meeting on Sunday morning with be addressed by Rev. Shelby Rooks, professor at Lincoln university, Pa.

The Richmond youth council will entertain the guests on Friday night with a reception, and the N.A.A.C.P. college chapter is holding a formal dance on Saturday night. The Greek letter fraternities and sororities of Virginia Union will hold open house for members of their respective organizations.

Much credit is due Miss Bathrus Bailey, president of the N.A.A.C.P. college chapter at Virginia Union, and to Dr. John Barco, vice-president of the institution, who laid the excellent groundwork for the conference.

Spring Campaigns

From now until the annual conference in June, youth councils and college chapters are concentrating on spring membership campaigns. A great many are being run concurrently with senior campaigns, while others are held separately. The following membership campaigns have already been held: Elizabeth, Montclair, Orange, Bayonne, and Rahway, New Jersey; Houston, Texas; Hartford, Conn.; Bakersfield, Calif.; Louisville, Ky.

Interracial Program

The membership campaign of the Morristown, Tennessee, youth council was brought to a successful close with an interracial mass meeting at Morristown college in the interest of the anti-lynching bill.

The program had for its theme, "The Spirit of Brotherhood" and speakers were Prof. Herman Daves, director of Negro work, T.V.A.; Dr. O. D. Fleming (white) pastor First Baptist church; and Prof. Herman J. Kloopfer (white) department of economics and sociology, Knoxville college. Music was rendered by the college glee club under the direction of Miss Virginia Carter.

Included in the $15 sent to the national office as a contribution from the meeting was a $2.00 donation from Rev. Fred D. Watson (white) pastor of the Centenary M. E. Church, Morristown.

News Letter

In a recent news letter to youth councils and college chapters, Rev. Robinson announced the final status of the William Anderson case. The letter follows in part: "It has been definitely established that William Anderson was framed not only on the occasion on which we appealed to you for funds, but on two subsequent occasions, and that these were attempts to intimidate him and the other members of both our branch and the youth council who worked with him in order that the very effective fight they were waging for the rights of Negroes at the polls might be curtailed.

"Anderson is now out of jail, and is employed as secretary-chauffeur to Dr. W. M. Ratliffe of the South Carolina State Baptist Association. Through the excellent work of Atty. R. O. Johnson, J. A. Brier, president of the senior branch, Rev. Clyde Helms, president of the State Interracial Committee, the facts in the case were laid before the Mayor, members of the police department, and a number of the most influential citizens in Greenville, with the result that all further malicious attempts to ruin Anderson, simply because of his activities with the youth council, have been stopped.

"Anderson, since his release from jail, has spoken with Rev. Ratliffe in a number of white churches all over the state of South Carolina. He will be one of the main speakers at the closing meeting of the First Student Conference at Virginia Union university, Richmond, on Sunday, March 31.

"Youth Council members all over the country who contributed so generously to the William Anderson Defense Fund should be justly proud of their efforts. We raised altogether a total of more than $300."

Boston President at Hartford

Reynold M. Costa, president of the Boston, Mass., youth council, spoke at a mass meeting of the newly organized Hartford, Conn., youth council for Rev. Robinson who was ill. A large number of young people were present and enthusiasm ran high, resulting in the enrolling of 39 persons as charter members. The officers are, Charles S. Jennings, president; George David, vice-president; Juanita Harris, secretary; Lott Carter, treasurer.

Media Rally

Media, Pennsylvania was the center of a pre-conference rally of Pennsyl-

vania youth councils recently. The meeting, sponsored by C. I. Moat, senior branch president, was addressed by Rev. Robinson. About 100 young people were present from Swarthmore, Morton, Malvern, Monessen, Chester, Johnstown, Berwyn, Bryn Mawr and Philadelphia to make preliminary plans for the youth section of the annual conference which meets in Philadelphia, June 18-23.

Cincinnati Hears Councilman

Charles P. Taft, councilman, addressed a meeting of the Cincinnati, Ohio, youth council at Bethel Baptist Church, Ashland and Yale avenues, recently. His topic, "Delinquency and Jobs as it Affects Race Relationships" was timely and well received.

Order from Chaos

At a recent meeting of the St. Petersburg, Florida, youth council, plans were drafted for the curtailment of the existing disorder at the local Harlem theatre. The management and several observers have reported to the council that its efforts in trying to make the theatre an orderly and enjoyable place have been worthwhile. A decided improvement has been made, but the council has appealed to the movie-going public to give them one-hundred per cent cooperation in this undertaking.

Robinson at White House

Rev. James H. Robinson, acting youth director, was one of the 30 youth leaders who were guests of Mrs. Roosevelt at a White House conference on youth problems Saturday, March 9. Other representatives of Negro youth were Mrs. McLeod Bethune, director of Negro Affairs under the National Youth Administration, and Edward Strong, youth secretary of the National Negro Congress. The remaining visitors represented the American Student Union, American Youth Congress, American Youth Commission, Y.M.C.A., Y.W.C.A., Farmers Young People, and Catholic and Jewish organizations.

The meeting was called primarily to consider the problems of youth throughout the whole nation, and to acquaint those working in various fields with the plans of other youth groups and with each other.

Mrs. Roosevelt very graciously accepted the chairmanship of the committee, and has called another meeting at the White House April 29, at which time more definite plans and problems will be discussed relative to youth needs, both local and national, and at which time a statement representing conclusions and recommendations will be drawn up.

Branch News

(*Continued from page* 119)

Philadelphia spoke on "The Negro and the New National Crisis."

Dr. David W. Anthony, president of the New Jersey conference, reports that he has organized branches in the Keyport-Matawan district, and in New Brunswick. R. P. Ball is president of the Keyport branch, and Rev. H. S. Hill, is president of the New Brunswick branch. Both branches have received their charters from the national office.

The February meeting of the Bridgeton branch was held at the St. Augustine church, with Gerald E. Allen, research director of the Temporary Commission of the State of New Jersey, as guest speaker. Reports were made from the following committees: The Wilson Morris Testimonial dinner, Mrs. Marie Purnell reporting a successful occasion; the education committee reported through Dr. L. G. Scott; and Henrietta Wright reported for the publicity activities.

The Pleasantville branch was organized by Dr. D. W. Anthony at a mass meeting held on March 7. Fifty-one members signed the application for a charter. Roscoe Carroll, was unanimously elected president, and other officers elected were: John F. Collins, vice-president; Mrs. Louise King, secretary, and John A. Parker, treasurer. The first public meeting will be April 7 at the Pleasantville Community Center. A committee under the chairmanship of H. Albion Ferrell was appointed to promote the local oratorical contest in order to send contestants to the state oratorical contest on April 26.

The Princeton branch, at the February 25 meeting, presented Evelyn Echels, teacher of history at Bordentown. Twenty-three new members were taken in at the meeting. Mrs. Margaret Thompson reported progress with promotion of the local oratorical contest. The program committee, Mrs. Charlie Potter, chairman, has begun preparations for the Inter-racial Good Will hour program, April 28. The principal address will be given by Walter White. B. Woodhull Davis, superintendent of the Princeton public schools, will be master of ceremonies, and music will be rendered by the Westminster Choir College of Princeton. The program will be held in the newly constructed Witherspoon school and will give all who attend a chance to inspect the building.

The Paterson branch held its February meeting in C.M.A. Hall, and presented Camille Killian, executive secretary of the Paterson Family Welfare Society in a brief talk. The branch, presided by Mrs. F. A. Curtis, has been active in cooperating with other organizations to assist the New Jersey State Commission on the Urban Colored Population investigations.

At a recent meeting of the New Brunswick branch, conducted by Rev. Solomon Hill, the group decided to follow up charges that Negroes will not be admitted as tenants of the local low rent housing project. Bertrand C. Bland of the temporary commission on the condition of the urban colored population was the main speaker, and others were Gerald E. Allen, Dr. E. Gaylord Howell, and Mrs. Hill, president of the branch.

Guest speaker at the Montclair branch meeting was Josiah F. Henry, Jr., of Baltimore. Rev. O. H. Spence was chairman of the education committee which sponsored the program and assisting him were Misses Spurgeon Howard and Muriel Sutherland. Music was under the direction of Sylvester Haley. Dr. Ferdinand D. Williams is president of the branch.

New York: The Ossining branch meeting on February 27 was held in the Methodist church, and plans for raising money for the support of the national office were discussed. I. L. Cheatman presided.

The Peekskill branch reports a membership of 75. At a recent meeting the following officers were elected: chaplain, Charles Green; assistant chaplain, Leonard Reeves; third vice-president, Mrs. Ethel Jackson; executive committee, Mrs. Catherine Overstreet; entertainment, Mrs. Louise Fry; youth council, Mrs. Grace Bynum; and education, Rev. Stephen D. Conrad. Nathan B. Rood was re-elected chairman of the legal redress committee, Fred H. Rivers, chairman of labor and industry, and Oscar Demond was elected member of the finance committee.

Ohio: The Cincinnati branch of which William A. McClain is president, sponsored a public mass meeting on civil rights at Calvary M. E. church in February. Commissioner Hubert A. Delany of New York addressed the group. Attorney T. M. Berry associated with Attorney McClain in the Lewis case of Wilmington, introduced the parents of the children who were discriminated against in the schools, and whose case is being appealed to the Ohio supreme court.

Oklahoma: The first regional conference of the southwestern area was held March 1-3 in Chickasha. Those taking part were Dr. W. A. J. Bullock, regional director; Roscoe Dunjee, state president. A number of interesting discussions were carried on during the sessions, and on Sunday there was an address by Dean Pickens.

The first annual session of the northeastern regional branches of Oklahoma was held March 7-8 in Muskogee. Prof. D. N. Julks was master of ceremonies, and the regional director, T. R. Ragsdale. The conference featured many fine discussions and speakers and was well received.

Pennsylvania: The Altoona branch observed education week with a special program at the Mt. Zion Baptist church, presenting talks and musical selections by members. Dr. George Walker is president.

The Media branch observed Negro health week at the March meeting at which time Dr. Lancess McKnight and Dr. Arthur W. King were speakers. The program was in charge of Mrs. Magnolia Butler and Sebastine Hunter, and A. J. King was master of ceremonies. William Jacobs presided at the business meeting. President Moat, member of the State conference executive committee, attended a meeting of the committee in Philadelphia and announced that plans were laid for the next state conference in Sharon in September.

Rhode Island: E. Frederic Morrow was guest speaker recently at the meeting of the Newport branch, of which Lyle Matthews is president. Others who took part in the program were: Mrs. Richard King, Mrs. James H. Bailey, Rev. T. A. Shirley, Mrs. Marie Williams, Julius Tinsley and Henry Cross. Benediction was pronounced by the Rev. J. R. Curtis.

Tennessee: The Chattanooga branch presented Rev. L. D. Cartwright as speaker at the Lincoln celebration, and there was also a musical program.

Texas: R. R. Grovey was speaker at the business meeting of the Houston branch held at the Mt. Vernon M. E. church, of which Rev. Hightower is pastor. Rev. A. A. Lucas, president, served as chairman of the meeting.

Washington: The Tacoma branch observed Negro history week with a public meeting, at which principal speaker was Bernard E. Squire of Seattle Urban League.

West Virginia: The first meeting of the reorganized Logan branch was held in February, at which D. L. Hays was temporary president.

Book Reviews

"WHIPPED BEFORE YOU BORN"

NATIVE SON. By Richard Wright. New York: Harper & Brothers, 1940. 359 pp. $2.50.

On the surface this is merely another sensational crime story, but at bottom is much more than that; it is a profound and searching analysis of the mind of the American Negro and a penetrating study of the tragic position of the Negro in American life. *Native Son* is Dostoevskian in its sweep and significance and tugs at the very guts of the reader. No one can read this story and continue to be complacent about the position of the Negro in American society. It churns up the emotions and performs the cleansing effects of the catharsis of Greek tragedy. Bigger Thomas is a creation worthy to rank with Raskolnikov or one of the Brothers Karamazov.

The center of the story is Bigger Thomas, the twenty-year-old black boy who is killed, ostensibly for killing a white girl, but really because he is a social misfit. Bigger is the victim of social injustice and that deeper malignity of race prejudice. He is no saint and the author does not sentimentalize him, but he is just as much a victim of his environment as was Clyde Griffith. He is the perfect "bad nigger" of Chicago's South Side living in a mouldy and decaying one-room tenement with his sister, his brother, and his pious mother. His instincts are bad and he snarls all through breakfast. The author paints this in an almost artistically perfect first scene where Bigger kills a rat with a skillet. Begging a quarter from his mother Bigger joins his pals in a shady poolroom to plan the holdup of a delicatessen. But Bigger is a coward and picks a fight with one of his pals to hide his blue funk. He is furious because he knows that Gus knows that he (Bigger) is afraid. Gus is afraid, too; but Bigger is equally as afraid.

That same afternoon he goes to take a job as chauffeur with Mr. Dalton of Drexel boulevard, where the relief people have sent him. Mr. Dalton is a philanthropist who has made some of his millions out of rottening South Side tenements, but he returns part of his tainted gains to Negroes in charity contributions. Mrs. Dalton likes to send her Negro chauffeurs to night school, and the daughter, Mary, is a radical flirting with Communism. At eight o'clock Bigger is supposed to drive Mary to the university to a lecture, but Mary directs him to a rendezvous with her Communist lover Jan. Then they direct Bigger to a South Side Negro restaurant, and later they order him to drive around the park while Mary and Jan drink and make love on the back seat. It is a very drunk Mary that Bigger returns to her bedroom at two that morning, but before he can get out, the blind Mrs. Dalton comes in to see her daughter and Bigger smothers Mary in a pillow to keep her from speaking of his presence. If Mrs. Dalton had known that he was there, she would have suspected him of rape, and Bigger knows this. He has unwittingly killed the girl; so he puts her body in a trunk, takes it down to the basement, and burns it. But her head won't fit in the furnace and he has to chop it off with a hatchet. He now turns on the exhaust fan to clear the basement of the odor of burning flesh.

The next morning Mary is missing, but since she had planned to go to Detroit no one thinks her absence unusual. But in the meantime Bigger knows that with the first suspicion of foul play he is going to be the suspect; therefore, he plans to pin the crime on Jan. He also figures that he can collect kidnap money on the pretense that Mary is alive, and takes his girl Bessie into the plot. Mary's bones are discovered in the ashes of the furnace and Bigger flees.

He takes Bessie along because he can't afford to leave her behind. But when he finds that she is a burden, he batters her head in with a brick and tosses her body down the airshaft of an empty building. After a brief roof-top chase, he is soon caught and brought to trial. He is tried in an atmosphere of mob hysteria and race hate. Though defended by the able Jewish lawyer, Max, he is found guilty and condemned to the chair.

In a part of his last confession Bigger admits that he has never "felt a sense of wholeness" in his entire life, and this is the tragedy of his life as it is of the members of his race caught in the hot desert of the white man's prejudice. There are many Bigger Thomases in actual life; one of their snarls is "I'll go to hell for a white man any day." Almost every American Negro is frustrated, but he escapes from reality through socially more acceptable means: excessive religiousness, Uncle Tomism, jazz, back-to-Africa movements, Father Divineism, "research," and various other futile doings. Most of the personality-traits of the American Negro are to be explained through the deep frustations which he suffers in American life. His often strange illogic, intense emotionalism, and sudden and fretful switches from Pollyannaism to cynical fatalism are explicable on these grounds. Anything to escape from consciousness of the galling realities surrounding his position in America.

Native Son is undoubtedly the greatest novel written by an American Negro. In fact, it is one of the best American novels, and Mr. Wright is one of the great novelists of this generation. JAMES W. IVY

TROUBLE IN JULY. By Erskine Caldwell. New York: Duell, Sloan & Pearce, 1940. 241 pp. $2.50.

This novel fits into what is now becoming a recognized Caldwellian pattern: the impoverished Georgia cotton country, the Neanderthal whites and blacks, a Georgia slut, bewildered darkies, corn-field sadists, one or two racial mavericks, and a violent denouement—in this case, a lynching.

The story is very simple. Sheriff Jeff McCurtain of Julie County, Georgia, for all his three hundred pounds, is in a mighty "tight fix" because whether he lies low or whether he takes action his job is likely to be done for. When in a "tight spot" Jeff usually kept "politically clean" by going fishing, but this time his boss, Judge Allen, has ordered him to stay on the job. Jeff was a master at evasion, but this time he could not evade the fact that the fanatic Mrs. Narcissa Calhoun, who was trying hard to get all Negroes sent back to Africa, had reported that she had seen Sonny Clark raping the slut Katy Barlow. Cotton-chopper Sonny, however, was innocent and if there was any raping it was really Katy who had attempted to rape Sonny. But this did not matter because Julie County citizens had to uphold pure southern womanhood and the sadistic manhunt was now on.

(*Continued on page* 124)

BEAUTIFUL CHILD CONTEST

Entry Blank

Name of Child..... (first name / middle name / last name)

Age: (Years, months and days).....

Exact Color: .....Color of Eyes: .....

Color of Hair: .....Exact Height: .....

Exact Weight: .....Date of Birth: .....

Mother's Name: .....Father's Name: .....

Father's Occupation: .....

Mother's Occupation: .....

Address: .....

City or Town: .....State: .....

Note: Contest begins Mav 1, 1940, and ends August 1, 1940. No photographs will be returned unless accompanied by proper postage and self-addressed container. Photographs should be large size and slick finish for good reproduction. Entries received with postmark after midnight August 1, 1940 will *not* be considered.

Each issue of *The Crisis* (June, July and August) will contain six photographs of the most beautiful children selected so far and $1.00 will be paid for each one selected and published.

The September 1940 *Crisis* will carry the photograph of the Grand Prize Winner ($25.00) on the Cover. Inside will appear the second choice ($10.00), the third choice ($5.00), the fourth choice ($3.00), the fifth choice ($2.00) and the sixth choice ($1.00).

The address of *The Crisis* is 69 Fifth Avenue, New York, N. Y.

McClendon Players Give "Booker T. Washington"

"Booker T. Washington," a play by William M. Ashby, is being given by the Rose McClendon Players of New York City, March 27 to April 13 in the Harlem Branch Library at 9 West 124th street. Dick Campbell, director of the Players and the Workshop, announces that Arthur Wilson, veteran professional actor has been cast in the role of the famous educator. The Rose McClendon Players, named for the famed actress, have made a specialty of producing the works of Negro playwrights. The last three productions were all written by colored authors: "A Right Angle Triangle," by Ferdinand Voteur; "Joy Exceeding Glory," by George Norford; and "On Strivers' Row," by Abram Hill.

Under Director Campbell, the Players have worked hard to found a genuine community theatre in Harlem and their efforts have received the support of the citizens of the area. There are no performances of plays on Sundays, Mondays and Tuesdays.

Mr. Ashby, author of the present production, is a graduate of Lincoln university (Pa.) and Yale. He is now the executive secretary of the Springfield, Ill., Urban League.

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Booker T. Washington Stamp on Sale April 7

History will be made April 7 when the United States postage stamp bearing the likeness of Booker T. Washington, founder of Tuskegee Institute, will be placed on sale at the postoffice at Tuskegee Institute, Ala.

Appropriate exercises will be held, with Postmaster General James A. Farley delivering the Founder's Day address over a nation-wide radio network at 2.15 p.m. Central Standard Time.

The stamps are brown, of ten cent denomination. They will be on sale at all other postoffices in the country April 8. Prospective purchasers should make inquiries of their postmasters in advance of April 8 to be sure their Washington stamps have been ordered.

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The novel that is sweeping the country!

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"The Grapes of Wrath of 1940"

—New York *Herald Tribune*

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LEGAL DIRECTORY

Responding to frequent inquiries, THE CRISIS carries herewith the names and addresses with telephone numbers of some of the 1300 colored attorneys in the United States, purely as a service to those seeking such information. THE CRISIS does not maintain a legal bureau, as many readers seem to think, and the N.A.A.C.P. concerns itself only with cases involving color discrimination, segregation or denial of citizenship rights. Lawyers whose names do not appear below are requested to write to THE CRISIS.

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Mention THE CRISIS to Our Advertisers

Book Reviews

(*Continued from page* 122)

The mob has already grabbed Jeff's favorite "nigger" Sam Brinson out of jail to hold as a hostage until Sonny is found. Jeff now has to look for "his" Sam as well as Sonny. The manhunt becomes both farcical and tragic.

There is the usual raid on the Negro quarters; the usual "posse," which in this case cowes, strips, and beats a Negro couple.

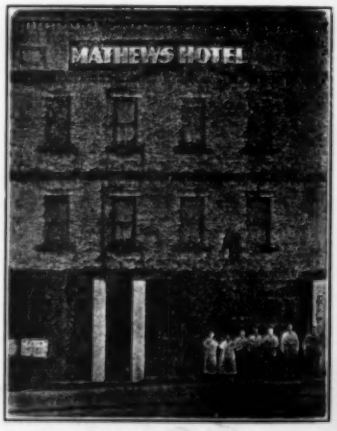
Jeff wanders around looking for Sam, and meanwhile Sonny is discovered in the bushes by a lone planter who, though convinced in his own mind of Sonny's innocence, feels that he has to turn him over to the mob. The boy is lynched. Katy later confesses Sonny's innocence and the men in disgust stone her to death.

Mr. Caldwell's whites are largely of the social *disjecta* of the South, members of that poorwhite *podredumbre* thrown up by that caste-ridden, decadent society that is the current South. Almost anything is possible in the present South. Like Czaristic Russia the South runs to incredible extremes of tolerance and barbarism, of wealth and abject poverty, of ripe culture and sadistic cruelty. This is the price of "Nordic supremacy."

Although the story has verisimilitude, the characters never exactly come alive. They seem more symbols of types than real individuals. Yet this tale strikes at the very roots of southern racial and economic intolerance and is a powerful plea for human justice.

JAMES W. IVY

TRAVELERS HOTEL DIRECTORY



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Jim Crow in D. C.

(*Continued from page* 107)

separate schools, separate playgrounds, and separate recreational centers. It has a separate fire company. It segregates by race the inmates of its hospitals and welfare and penal institutions.

Theatres

There is only one legitimate theatre in Washington. It is the National. When the late Richard B. Harrison was here in "The Green Pastures" in February, 1933, colored persons were barred from the regular performances. But a special performance for the benefit and under the auspices of the educational department of the Elks was given on Sunday evening, February 26.

The next road show with a colored cast to play the National was "Porgy and Bess" in the week beginning March 16, 1936. The National dropped the color bar. It did likewise the next week when Ethel Waters came with Beatrice Lillie in "At Home Abroad." Colored patrons sat wherever they pleased. There was no untoward incident. But the next week when colored persons, to whom tickets had been sold for "Winterset" with Burgess Meredith, presented themselves for admission, their tickets were taken up and their money refunded. The National has adhered strictly to the policy of excluding colored theatregoers ever since.

A peculiar situation exists with respect to the downtown motion picture theatres. Three major film producing companies maintain and operate them. Loew's, Inc., which controls Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Pictures; Warner Bros. Pictures, Inc., and RKO-Radio Pictures, Inc., are the offending film producing companies. They exclude colored moviegoers from their downtown theatres but sell the films they produce to uptown exhibitors for exhibition to colored audiences.

Local hotels bar colored patronage. Exceptions are made in the case of visiting rulers of foreign countries, for whom the State Department makes arrangements, and native colored Americans of distinction, who have friends to influence the management to allow them accommodations. The cafes and restaurants (except the luncheon and dining room in the Union Station) also bar colored patronage.

There is neither law nor rule against mixed boxing in the District of Columbia. But colored lads are barred from the Golden Gloves Tournament, which is run each year by The Washington *Herald-Times,* owned and edited by Mrs. Eleanor Patterson.

Civil Rights Body Formed

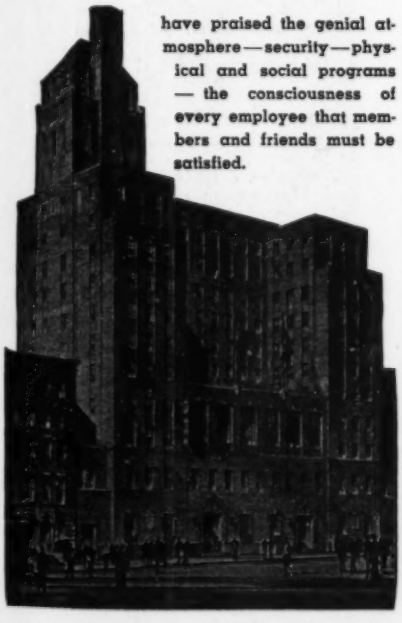
To rid the nation's capital of discrimination, based on race or color, with respect to public accommodations and amusements, and to secure the enjoyment of equal civil rights, which is fundamental in American citizenship, the Washington Civil Rights Committee has been formed. It is a united front organization representing 75 religious, fraternal and civic bodies. Eugene Davidson is its chairman and W. Robert Ming, Jr., the chairman of its executive committee.

The world premiere of the motion picture, "Abe Lincoln in Illinois," at RKO Keith's theatre on the evening of January 22 was picketed by the Washington Civil Rights Committee to dramatize the condition of colored people in the nation's capital with respect to the enjoyment of civil rights and to attract attention to its campaign for enactment of a civil rights bill for the District of Columbia.

MANY FINE MEN

the country over who lived at the

Harlem Branch Y. M. C. A.



have praised the genial atmosphere—security—physical and social programs — the consciousness of every employee that members and friends must be satisfied.

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READ AND ACT

The National Negro Insurance Association reported for 1936:

—Assets of $17,434,075.07
—Income of $15,061,347.72
—Insurance in force: $288,963,070.00
—Policies in force: 1,643,125
—Ordinary Insurance: $80,106,234
—Industrial Insurance: $181,961,766.63.
—Health and Accident Insurance: $26,895,069.37
—Employment: 8,150 Negroes
—Policies issued and Revived in 1936: $174,112,773.00
—Increased business, 1936: $65,645,466
—Increase in policies, 1936: 251,047

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North Carolina Mutual Reports Record Year

An unusual and interesting feature of the annual meeting of the policyholders of North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company of Durham, North Carolina, was the presentation of service pins to Home Office employees whose service records covered a period of ten years and longer. President Spaulding had the distinction of being the one and only representative who qualified for the highest service group with an unbroken record of forty-one years. Five were represented in the service group ranging from thirty to forty years; nineteen were in the group with records of twenty to thirty years, and forty were in the group having service records of from ten to twenty years.

It is interesting to note that of the 106 Home Office employees, sixty-five, or approximately 61% had service records ranging from ten to forty-one years. This unusual showing is not only an evidence of the loyalty of the individuals who serve the company, but is a true index of the alertness and efficiency of these men and women, who, despite constant changes in the handling of records due to the growth of the institution, have possessed the ability and resourcefulness to broaden and develop themselves to the point where they continue to function acceptably in the numerous highly specialized assignments they are called upon to handle.

Although the initial presentation of service pins was to Home Office employees, it was announced that similar presentations are to be made to all field representatives whose period of service with the company justifies such recognition.

In his annual report to the policyholders, President Spaulding announced that the year 1939 saw the shattering of many long standing records. The assets of the company, insurance in force, surplus, payments to policyholders, production and net savings reached an all time high. During the year, 182,576 new policyholders were added to the already vast "Mutual Family."

In the course of his remarks, Mr. Spaulding stated that the officials of the company derive unusual satisfaction from the fact that the program of the company has not been limited solely to the collecting of premiums and the payment of death claims. A unique and vastly beneficial service has been rendered policyholders and the public through making available funds for home modernization, new construction, refinancing of mortgage indebtedness, and the acquisition of homes. These benefits are made available where the security is unquestionably safe and fully adequate to protect such investments.

The far reaching benefits of North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company are tangibly reflected in the fact that during the past forty-one years, the company has paid to policyholders and to their beneficiaries a total of $18,336,126.58. This vast sum represents premiums deposited by these individuals, which premiums were safely invested and added to by reason of interest accruals, pending ultimate payment as directed by these individuals themselves.

It is also interesting to note that payments to policyholders during the year amounted to $972,010.61, which amount includes $170,294 paid to living policyholders in the form of matured endowments.

The 41st Annual Report, which appears elsewhere in this paper, and which covers all financial phases of operation through December 31, 1939, shows that in keeping with the long established policy of the company, a healthy diversification has been maintained in the investment portfolio. During the year, substantial additions were made to the existing portfolio through the acquisition of United States Government Bonds, State and Municipal Bonds and other high grade securities. Admitted Assets reached $5,921,275.91, an increase of $423,087.89 for the year. Statutory policy reserves at the close of business December 31st were $5,240,212.18, an increase for the year of $375,537.28. The total income for the year was $2,801,170.10, an increase of $291,261.00 over that of the previous year. Insurance in force as of December 31, 1939 amounted to $47,581,193.00.

Employment, part time and full, is given to approximately one thousand men and women. On the whole, President Spaulding reports a year of marked improvement in all phases of operation.

Directors named at the annual meeting of the policyholders were: C. C. Spaulding, W. J. Kennedy, Jr., E. R. Merrick, R. L. McDougald, G. W. Cox, M. A. Goins, Dr. Clyde Donnell, J. L. Wheeler, A. J. Clement, Sr.; W. D. Hill, D. C. Deans, A. T. Spaulding.

No changes were made in the official personnel of the institution at the annual meeting of the Board of Directors. Officers named for the new year were: C. C. Spaulding, President; W. J. Kennedy, Jr., Vice President-Secretary; E. R. Merrick, Vice President-Treasurer; R. L. McDougald, Vice President; Clyde Donnell, M.D., Vice President-Medical Director; W. D. Hill, Assistant Secretary-Comptroller; M. A. Goins, Assistant Secretary; G. W. Cox, Vice President-Director of Agents; D. C. Deans, Assistant Director of Agents; J. L. Wheeler, Assistant Director of Agents; A. T. Spaulding, Assistant Secretary-Actuary; Bessie A. J. Whitted, Cashier; J. S. Hughson, Assistant to Treasurer.

Letters from Readers

Disagrees With Padmore on French Colonial Question

To the Editor of The Crisis: No one would publish an article proving that two and two make four; consequently, there are individuals everywhere who break into print by demonstrating that two plus two make five. The published result is often interesting but rarely convincing.

Mr. Padmore's article is a case in point. To him, the French colonial policy is "reactionary and repressive" primarily because the Negroes are divided into two classes: subjects and citizens, the latter constituting an élite and receiving most of the privileges. In what country, state, city, or village in the entire world does some such division not exist? Even in Russia, Mr. Padmore's former love, there is such an élite. We deplore the fact that many élites exploit the less fortunate, but this feeling would not justify the contention that the creation of those privileged classes was achieved with malice of forethought.

On two occasions in his article, Mr. Padmore charges that those of us who consider France liberal have been misled by basing our conclusions upon acquaintance with "assimilated French Negroes." I do not feel that we have been quite so naïve. Our criterion has rather been the way we ourselves have been treated on French soil. Even Mr. Padmore agrees that the French "are more or less free from race prejudice." Few of us would be so gullible as to admire any type of imperialism, but if a choice had to be made, the American Negro tourist could hardly be blamed for preferring the Frenchman to the Nazi, the Englishman, or the Mississippi marine.

Mr. Padmore names several French authors who have protested against colonial abuses. Why did he not also mention the fact those protests have often proved effective? The French authorities took steps almost immediately to correct the evils exposed by André Gide. Why, also, did Mr. Padmore not refer to René Maran who courageously attacked colonial abuses, but who none the less firmly admits that conditions are being ameliorated? Mr. Padmore will consider Maran "assimilated," but the long years that the author of *Batouala* spent in French Equatorial Africa lend an authority to his findings not possessed by the erstwhile communist. That many liberal Frenchmen have attacked the problem is in itself proof not only that there is room for improvement, but also that there is a chance of realizing that improvement.

Finally, Mr. Padmore has chosen to ignore the primary tenet of French colonial policy, which constitutes the main difference between French, British, German, Italian and other imperialisms: namely that the natives are *perfectibles*. It is therefore possible—theoretically at least—for the underprivileged black masses to join that elite. This is, in the final analysis, the essential principle of progress and education.

As one who knows both France and Mr. Padmore, I should like to remind the latter that two plus two still equal four.

Mercer Cook

Atlanta University
Atlanta, Georgia